Rex Navarette goes for another round of laughs. PAGE 5
Burglary victim wants fed court involved. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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80 workers lose jobs

By JON PEREZ and KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
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REPORTERS

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is being criticized, this time for the alleged termination of the job contracts of 80 foreign workers who were brought in under temporary worker visas, or H-2B, and these individuals are looking for answers.

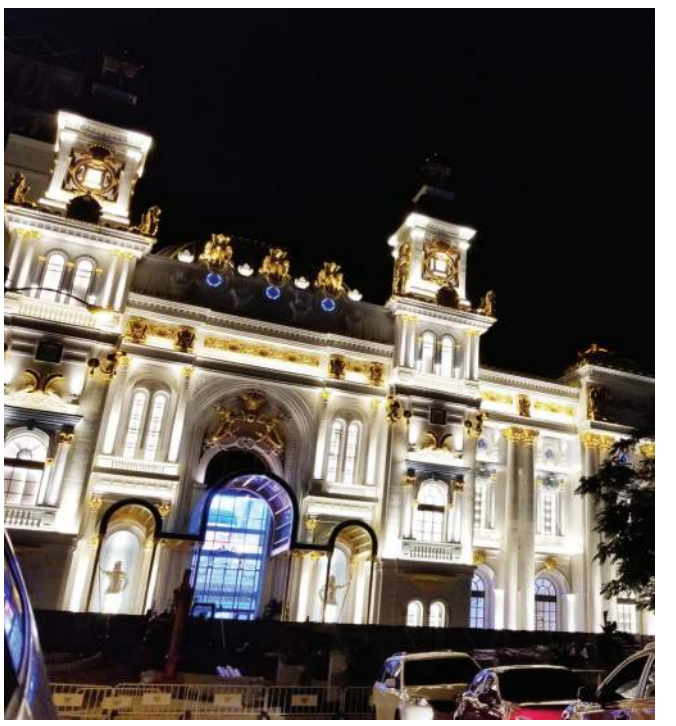
» 'US workers are priority hire'

One of the workers, who were among the 80 who were given walking papers, posted last Friday a plea for legal advice and help on a social media page.

The post stated that IPI renewed their visas and gave them a contract extension from Sept. 1 to Jan. 30. "But now, they are giving us a termination papers effective Oct. 12." The workers, all of them in construction, were helping build the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, IPI said the reduction is based on the demand of the project. "The purpose of the reduction is to adjust the level of labor supply based on the

See WORKERS on Page 4



The façade of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan lights up the night sky.
JON PEREZ

The 40th Annual Club 200 staff pose for a photo during the awarding of the grand raffle prize last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

NMI Red Cross marks 40

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth community came out last Saturday to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter during its 29th Annual Club 200 event.

From business owners to employees, to government staff and community volunteers, individuals from all over came out to help celebrate the milestone, some in costumes in keeping with the theme, which is Rock 'n Roll to 40 years.

According to American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, it's exciting that the chapter has been up and running for such a long period of time.

"Forty years. It's hard to believe. It's really exciting to achieve such a big milestone

See NMI on Page 4

'Low-wage workers would benefit'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Low-wage employees who were affected by past austerity measures of the CNMI government would benefit from House Bill 20-120 if ever the measure is passed the Senate and signed into law.

Vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) introduced H.B. 20-120 on Aug. 30, 2017, to provide for the payment of employees whose salary increases were suspended due to the financial austerity measures of the government.

H.B. 20-120 is an enabling legislation that would au-

See LOW-WAGE on Page 4

CEC selects boat to get 19 votes from NI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» CEC will deliver ballots to NI 3 to 5 days before Nov. 6 election

The Commonwealth Election Commission has chartered the boat that will deliver ballots and get the 19 votes from the Northern Islands three to five days before the Nov. 6 general election.

This comes as CEC disclosed last week that, of their two choices, the commission has selected the M/V *Super Emerald* of Norman Tenorio for a $20,900 contract.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said one company's quotation was about $26,000 to $27,000, while the third com-

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INSIDE

NATION
Search and rescue personnel are combing through the ruins of the Florida Panhandle.
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ASIA
Rains trigger flash floods and landslides on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, killing at least 27.
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LIFE & STYLE
Britain's Princess Eugenie marries tequila brand ambassador Jack Brooksbank.
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Local

IN SEX ASSAULT OF MINOR CASE

Ex-prosecutor: Unethical for defense to tell court interviews with rape victim withheld

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub said it is inappropriate—if not unethical—for assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, as the new lawyer for a defendant in a rape of a minor case, to tell the court that the recordings during an interview with the victim were withheld without first checking with her (Zona's) predecessor.

Weintraub

Zona

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend, Weintraub disclosed that the attorney of Joseph Seman Epina at the time she interviewed the victim in the case was assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit.

Weintraub said Nesbit was aware that she was going to be interviewing the victim beforehand and that she turned over all recordings to her immediately after the interviews.

"Ms. Nesbit subsequently viewed the recordings and we discussed them in detail," she paid.

Epina, through Zona, asked the Superior Court last month to compel the Office of the Attorney General to produce recordings of interviews of the girl, who was allegedly raped in 2016 by the then-43-year-old Epina.

Zona also requested the court to hold an evidentiary hearing to determine the existence and nature of any outstanding discovery.

Zona said the requested evidence and information are material to the defense and disclosure would be neither unreasonable nor oppressive to the government.

Zona said that at a recent evidentiary hearing concerning memory taint of the alleged victim, the girl testified she met with Weintraub on numerous occasions. Zona said the alleged victim testified that on some of those occasions the interviews were recorded on Weintraub's phone.

She said until the girl's recent testimony, such material had never been made known or available to the defense, even though it was requested and this case has been pending since March 2016.

See RAPE on Page 4

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LibDay proceeds go to SMO programs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2018 Liberation Day Committee has turned over the remaining money it has collected from the festivity. A total of $3,000 was funneled to the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program, the CNMI Museum, and the Karidat Social Services—with all the funds coming from the leftover funds collected from the 2018 Liberation Day Festival.

LibDay Committee chair Joe Ayuyu Jr., along with president Louis Rodgers, presented Dog Control Program manager Spencer Marchadesch, CNMI Museum director Danny Aquino, and Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro $1,000 each.

Ayuyu noted that the committee agreed to give the remaining proceeds to these three programs prior to handing out the funds,

"This year was a successful year. We want to thank all our sponsors, everybody that donated, everybody that helped, the volunteers, of course," he said. "We cannot forget the Saipan Mayor's Office for helping us out, including the community."

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the committee is a non-profit, so all leftover proceeds would go back to the community. Rodgers said that some of the proceeds were set aside to kickstart the 2019 Liberation Day festivities.

"We want to thank [Ayuyu and Rodgers] for working with us during our liberation activities," said Apatang in a statement. He added that Ayuyu would be stepping down as LibDay Committee chairman, while Rodgers would continue on as president.

According to Karidat's Ogumoro, she plans to use the $1,000 for the program's new office at the former Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center.

"…This money will go toward helping to pay for the parking lot," said Ogumoro, adding that the Saipan Zoning Board did not allow them to park in front. "…We have to construct a new parking lot," she said, with over 20 stalls to accommodate other government offices in the building, such as the Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law, the Marianas Behavioral Health Institute, and in the near future, the CNMI Drug Court.

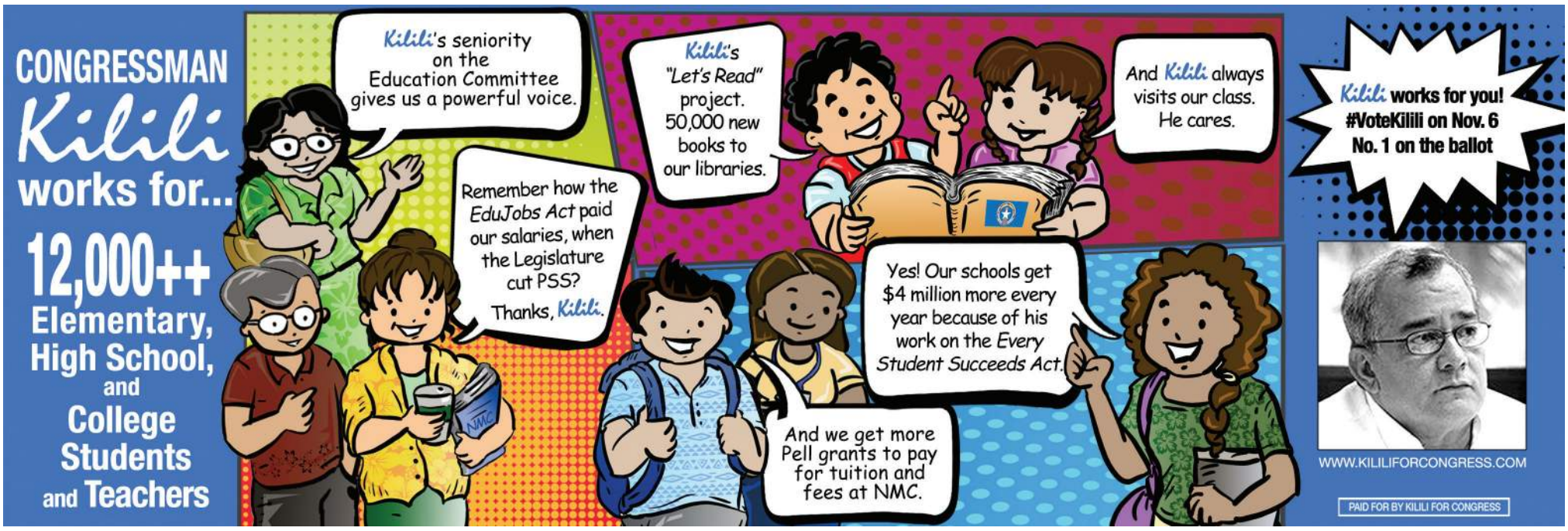
The cash for the NMI Museum, according to Aquino, would go a long way.

"We want to continue to use the money donated to aggressively build the remaining structures [in the area]," he said, referring to the old Japanese Laboratory. He noted that the museum is looking to raise $300,000 to set up a fence around the building and the storage building next to it.

Aquino is looking at using the pavilion behind the museum as a storage house for artifacts since the old storage at the former Kalingo building was bought out by the Marianas Visiting Nurses, requiring the museum to move the artifacts stored in it.

"It was a significant amount of building property, so we are now transferring it out to the new building," he said.

Marchadesch noted that he has yet to specify where the money would go. He noted, though, that the Dog Control Program captured about 1,000 dogs a year.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WORKERS

From Page 1

demand of the construction project."

"The adjustment is in line with effective workforce planning and efficiency improvement of the project."

The statement added that IP is prioritizing the local and U.S. citizen workforce that were affected when they terminated the services of Guam-based contractor, Pacific Rim.

"IPI plans to hire local construction [workers] who are released by Pacific Rim to ensure their continued employment."

The casino investor, in a previous statement, said they are committed to promoting U.S. employment to complete the project. [IPI] is committed toward the completion of its construction project to boost the local economy. IPI is proactively working with Pacific Rim in offering continued employment under IPI's construction project."

A source, who agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity, told *Saipan Tribune* that the termination of the contracts of the foreign laborers were legal since they are conditional workers.

Saipan Tribune obtained a copy of the contract, which states that employees can be let go on the grounds of, among others, "serious misconduct, willful disobedience of employer's lawful orders, habitual neglect of duties, absenteeism, insubordination, revealing secrets of establishment, when employee violates customs, traditions, and laws of the CNMI and/or terms of this contract."

IPI, in the termination of employment, said the workers would be provided with seven days of salary for their accrued paid time off that would reflect in their final paycheck.

Open forum

Yesterday, over 50 IPI construction workers met with Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Tina Sablan, who was standing in for U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), at the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ chapel in San Jose to voice their concerns and seek answers to some of their questions through an open forum.

Propst reportedly plans to accompany them to the Department of Labor today. He also invited them to join tomorrow's House session.

He said the termination of the workers' contracts came as a surprise. "They want answers because this was so sudden. They explained to us that they were called in on Friday afternoon, one by one, and were served termination letters that they would only be given severance pay for seven days and they would be sent back home," he said.

"They had contracts through January 2019. They were given no explanation as to why they were being terminated so suddenly or why all 80 H-2B workers terminated just happened to be Filipinos.

"It seems now that IPI got a two-and-a-half-year extension for completing the hotel casino project in Garapan, they have decided to lay off both local and H-2B workers. First, Pacific Rim lay off hundreds of workers the day the NMI Workforce Act of 2018 was signed by President Trump. And now we see massive terminations of H-2B workers by IPI."

He questioned IPI's ability to finish the project within the extension given to them by the CNMI Lottery Commission. "With all of these local and H-2B workers being laid off, are we really supposed to believe that IPI will complete the hotel casino construction project within 2.5 years?"

"These terminations of local and H-2B workers, the recent multiple resignations of high-ranking executives at IPI, and the termination of Pacific Rim are all telltale signs that the casino is having serious problems."

Propst said IPI previously blamed the shortage of skilled labor for the delay in the completion of the multimillion dollar project. "So, what's their excuse going to be now? Do we honestly believe that IPI is going to complete the casino hotel by their [new] construction deadline in 2021 after laying off hundreds of skilled workers?"

Propst said that another one of their concerns is that IPI is allegedly already preparing to terminate the contracts of another 100 guest workers.

"Our big concern right now is that…there was no information whatsoever about this and they wanted to let them go quietly but once they started talking amongst themselves, they found out that there were 80 of them that were terminated and now we are hearing that IPI is ready to terminate another 100 workers in addition to this 80," he said.

Over 50 IPI construction workers met with Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Tina Sablan, who was standing in for U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), at the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ chapel in San Jose.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CEC

From Page 1

pany is "no longer doing boat charter service."

When *Saipan Tribune* ran a story last Sept. 26 about CEC's preparation to spend $26,000 to $27,000 to charter a boat to deliver ballots on the Northern Islands, Tenorio expressed shock about the cost.

In an email, Tenorio said M/V *Super Emerald* has been providing charter service to the Northern Islands for many years, but has never assessed the government or anyone else a rate of $27,000 for a three-day voyage.

At that time, Tenorio said the CEC has not invited their company to participate in the competitive bidding process.

Saipan Tribune learned last week that CEC subsequently chose Tenorio's M/V *Super Emerald*.

Villagomez said the M/V *Super Emerald* will carry to the Northern Islands 10 passengers—one representative from the Office of the Public Auditor, two police officers, four poll workers (two each from the GOP and the Democratic Party), and three CEC staff.

The boat, Villagomez said, can take 18 passengers, but they will not allow hitchhikers.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol said the last number they have is that there are 19 registered voters who are currently on the Northern Islands.

She said 14 are Northern Islands' voters and the remaining five are voters from Precinct 4 of Saipan.

Precinct 4 covers Tanapag, San Roque, and Capital Hill.

Villagomez said it is expensive to get a few votes from Northern Islands, but that as long as there is one voter there, they have to go there and bring the ballots.

She recalled that in 2008, they hired a chopper for $12,000 to $15,000 to get just one vote from the Northern Islands.

NMI

From Page 1

for our local Red Cross unit here," he said.

Hirsh said that about 1,000 people came out to celebrate the chapter's anniversary and that in itself is a testament of how strongly the community has supported the chapter over the years.

"The turnout was good. We have about 1,000 people here…about the same amount as the last few years so we are happy with the turnout," he said. "This year, we have the VIP tickets that we didn't have before. Those are for the people who paid $150 to join the event. They got reserved seating…the whole motivation for doing this is to help raise money…everyone here is contributing to support the work that we are doing…. Without the support of these people, we wouldn't be able to do anything."

Aside from the buffet and an open bar, the chapter offered several chances for its supporters to win prizes.

There was the chance to win prizes from the Club 200 raffle draw. Individuals were also given the opportunity to buy keys that could open one of the three mystery treasure chests that held over $2,000 worth of prizes.

This year's grand prize winner of the Club 200 raffle draw was Bernie Helstrom who was not present for the event. Helstrom's nephew, Rufin Inos Jr., received the prizes for her.

The grand prize was a $10,000 shopping spree redeemable at any one of the Joeten Group of Companies, a Samsonite backpack from T-Galleria, a 12,000 BTU split type aircon, a free two-night stay at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and a new Samsung Galaxy note 9 with a free one-year contract with IT&E.

The first place raffle winner was Docomo Pacific, the second place winner was Kevin Lavarias, and the third place winner was Julita Villagomez.

The top three winners won two roundtrip tickets aboard Asiana or United Airlines, gift certificates from Let's Go Tours, and free three-night stay at either Fiesta Resort or Kanoa Resort Saipan.

LOW-WAGE

From Page 1

thorize the Office of Personnel Management to pay over 1,000 employees who were never given within-grade increases, as provided in the law, which states that all civil servants should be given an annual WGI (Within-Grade Increase).

The bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) where they passed it on July 30. It was sent to the Senate where it was assigned to the Committee on Fiscal Affairs, chaired by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

It was among the bills that were on the calendar recommended for final reading in last week's Senate session, but they have to postpone acting on it after several senators raised concerns.

Hofschneider himself, along with Sens. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), had asked the Senate to defer acting on the bill as there are issues that first need to be clarified.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) had to ask Senate floor leader Sen. Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) to withdraw his motion for passage and was later referred the bill back to Hofschneider's committee.

Maratita said she began working on the bill after being sworn in as a member of the 20th Legislature. "I worked on it when I came in last year because the frozen [step] employees were given [retroactive pay]."

"There were some concerns for those who are in the low-end salary [workers]. That's why I decided to come up with this legislation because it is not fair that those people with frozen steps were given retroactive [pay]."

She added that these employees have been waiting to receive their overdue salary increases. "These employees have been waiting for this. In fact, the Senate assured them that they are going to act on it and now they referred it back to the committee?"

"These employees are entitled for the WGI. They were never given a raise …OPM gave me the certified list of employees."

Hofschneider said he wants his committee to clarify some issues since other agencies could also be included. "It is important to request to hold action on this to get more clarity on what the particular legislation is asking."

Concerns

Igisomar said the bill is not clear on the source of funds and language should be included that would protect the employees that deserve the increase. He said: "I fully support the bill but we need the funding to also be included."

Also, he wants language that would waive the requirement for performance evaluations. "Some of these people may not even have that. I believe the previous performance evaluation was waived because there's no reason to do it since there's not going to be any increase. Language should be put in to protect those employees [despite] lacking the performance evaluation."

Manglona, on the other hand, said the FAC should at least call a public hearing or have a meeting with the Civil Service Commission and other department secretaries. "Some of these people have already retired and some have moved on. Their salary was not increased and their retirement benefits do not reflect the salaries that they should be receiving. They have been hit twice, I hope the [FAC] could call some of them."

He added that they must expeditiously act on the bill so the Senate could pass it at the next session. "We must make sure the people are compensated and that they deserve it…It is the right thing to do. Those that can get this benefit truly deserve to get it."

Santos said that employees from Rota were also calling her. "I've received calls from Rota requesting for the immediate passage of the legislation."

RAPE

From Page 2

Epina allegedly raped a then-12-year-old girl at her relative's house on Saipan on March 12, 2016. The girl told police that it was not the first time that Epina sexually assaulted her.

The OAG charged Epina with sexual assault of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Comedian Rex Navarette goes for another round of laughs

Comedian Rex Navarrete is returning to Saipan for two back-to-back shows on Nov. 3—one at 5pm and another at 9pm—at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom to give his fans another dose of his comedy.

Navarrete's last show on island was 10 years ago, according to Roil Soil Clothing owner Shayne Villanueva, the company that is bringing Navarette back. "Rex is pretty popular and tickets have been selling really fast: VIP tickets go for $35 and general admission ticket go for $20. Our 9pm VIP seats are now sold out. Maybe one factor that we sold those early is that these people didn't make it to the last show 10 years ago," he said. "The show will last about two and half hours. The reason we chose Hyatt is because the ballroom is meant for this…theater-scene show. Whether you sit in the front or back, you will still be able to see the show and it feels like every seat is good."

Food and drinks will be available for purchase and Hyatt executive sous chef Zen Tomokane will come up with a special menu.

Villanueva said that Navarette has prepared a good show. "He's doing shows in Manila and around Asia and that's how we were able to pick him up… I knew of him when he did a show for my friend 15 years ago in San Diego and that's how we reached out and got that connection."

"Personally, I've been a big fan of Rex and I've been doing his impersonations for a long time. …I used to watch him," he added.

Another highlight of the show is that local resident and funny guy G Van Gils will open the show for Navarette. "I really love performing comedy because it is the scariest thing that I do… I am also excited because when we bring in excellent talented professional comedians like Rex Navarette, I get to learn a lot from them because I get to see them perform more than once and I get to learn from them in a way that's really exciting," he said.

"I also think that people like Rex, if they spend more time on Saipan, would find lots of hilarious things about this place. As the local opener, I get to point out all of the funny local things that we know about… Comedy is like live art, so Rex will come up to perform some of his classics and some of his new ones, stuff that nobody has ever heard. He will be developing and improving materials in each show so it's never going to be the same twice, that's why I advise people to buy tickets for both shows," he added.

Villanueva said the community can expect more events from Roil Soil Clothing. "We work on so many things in many levels. We do marketing, enhance a company's social media, production and charity events. We [like] creating events for people so Saipan isn't boring. We want everyone to show up and have a good time. We want to showcase our local talents, Hyatt, and that we are just not here for the money because our projects are borne out of passion. We want to continue to do this show and more for Saipan," he added.

There will be a meet-and-greet with Rex Navarette at 7:30pm and people below 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The show will be hosted by Big Boy Santi and tickets are available at Tribe Marianas located at the D. Torres Building on Middle Road. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

BEA CABRERA
Roil Soil Clothing owner Shayne Villanueva and G Van Gils are inviting the community to see comedian Rex Navarette live on Nov. 3 as he performs in two shows–at 5pm and 9pm–at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom (formerly The Sandcastle).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Library closed on Saturday, Oct. 27

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Oct. 27, in lieu of the 4th Annual Friends of the Library Golf Tournament. If interested in participating in the tournament or for more information, call the library at 235-READ. ***(PR)***

CHamoru commission meeting reset

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) has postponed its monthly meeting to Oct. 18, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3pm, at the former Guam Museum building or the Garden House in Hagåtña.

Work sessions will also be held on Thursday, Oct. 25, 12:30pm to 3pm at the same venue. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Oct. 15, from 11am to 5:30pm
- Oct. 16-18, from 11am to 10pm
- Oct. 19, from 10am. to 10pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Oct. 16-1, from 2pm to 10pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

3rd Annual
We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes
17th Anniversary of September 11th
Remembering those who perished and honoring the heroes that saved many lives during the attacks and those who continue to fight against terrorism.

SCHEDULE UPDATE
• SAIPAN - AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
October 14th 8:00 am - Posting of flags
October 17th 5:00 pm - Freedom Walk (Garapan Fishing Base to American Memorial Park)
9/11 Ceremony at Field of Heroes site
October 22nd 6:00 am - Retiring of flags

• TINIAN - VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
October 15th - Posting of flags
October 23rd 11:00 am - 9/11 Ceremony at Field of Heroes site
October 26th - Retiring of flags

• ROTA - JOAQUIN OGO BASEBALL FIELD
October 15th - Posting of flags
October 26th 5:00 pm - Freedom Walk and 9/11 Ceremony at Field of Heroes site
October 27th - Retiring of flags

For every $10 donation, sponsor a 3'x5' American flag in honor/memory of a community hero.

For every $15 donation, receive a free event shirt.

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Saipan Mayor's Office - Ms. Joann Aquino (Contact no. 234-6208)

• Tinian
Tinian Mayor's Office - Mr. Joseph Hocog (Contact no. 433-1800)

• Rota
Hotel Valentino Front Desk
Rota Mayor's Office - Ms. Aubry Hocog (Contact no. 532-9451/2)

Net proceeds go to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to support Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder programs.
Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

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Burglary victim wants fed court involved

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The victim of a burglary and assault and battery case has asked the Superior Court to get the federal court and its prosecutors involved.

The alleged victim of multiple burglaries requested Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja last Wednesday that all evidence in the criminal case involving Joaquin Crisostimo and Waedynne Cepeda Maratita be transferred to a federal prosecutor.

According to the request, the Office of the Attorney General has chosen to exclude two vital pieces of evidence—a pair of black shoes and a green bag—that would prove the victim's case.

"These [are] very, very important things that show the connection between the Feb. 17 burglary and Feb. 20 invasion…but CNMI OAG… chose to exclude these," said the victim, who asked that his name be withheld temporarily.

In a letter to the *Saipan Tribune*, he said he wants federal prosecutors involved as he believes the OAG prosecutors just wants the case done and that the Department of Public Safety is colluding.

"CNMI OAG informed us that very important real evidences are missing in DPS…I want to…ask federal prosecutors to take actions on these missing evidences. It is a U.S. justice issue," he said.

In a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, the victim said the two suspects burglarized his house on Saipan and took several items from him on Feb. 17, 2017. He said police officers found the stolen items in the trunk of the suspects' car and that one suspect even choked him.

The victim also claims that the case's prosecutor is dropping the case and is also accusing the prosecutor of hiding key evidence (the shoes and the bag) to close the matter easily.

"This is not justice, not a righteous, appropriate way of a prosecutor," he said, adding that he received a message from the prosecutor, telling him about a possibility that the case may not proceed to trial.

According to a police report, Crisostomo and Maratita broke into a house on Capital Hill after the couple left the residence, leaving their minor daughter behind.

The girl was shocked and frightened upon seeing a woman, later identified as Maratita, holding a metal object and telling her not to move.

When Maratita left the house, the girl grabbed a knife from the kitchen and called her parents. The girl's father immediately went back and saw the suspects' car. The father blocked the car with his vehicle. The father struggled with Crisostomo. Police officers arrived and secured Crisostomo.

TRIBUTE KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Pete Tenorio, the grandson of late governor Pedro P. Tenorio, performs a number as a tribute to his grandfather during the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 40th Annual Club 200 celebration last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Kilili: Veterans' voices heard on healthcare needs

Veterans on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota had an opportunity to meet and speak directly with researchers putting together the feasibility study for a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, or CBOC, in the Marianas.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) included the study in Section 213 of the VA MISSION Act, signed into law on June 6. He followed up, when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs contracted out the work, to make sure it included a site visit to the Marianas, so veterans could describe first-hand the difficulty of getting routine healthcare without their own CBOC.

The MISSION Act requires the study to be completed by the end of the year. Sablan plans to begin working on funding for a clinic as soon as the new Congress convenes in January. Because of the relatively small population in the Marianas, Sablan may also have to adjust standards about how many veterans a CBOC has to serve.

The congressional office helped Romanyk Consulting president and CEO Nick Romanyk and senior planning and facility practice leader Jeff White set up the face-to-face meetings with veterans at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saipan and at the Tinian Public Library. Rota veterans and veterans who were unable to attend in person were also able to join via videoconference.

The two researchers also met with Sablan for a briefing last week. They aim to complete the report by Thanksgiving.

"I just want our veterans to get the care they need," Sablan explained. "They should have a place of their own that they can go to for care. We have one of the highest per capita recruitment rates in the nation, but we do not have the services that our veterans need when they come home."

Since gaining representation in Congress 10 years ago, Marianas veterans have seen steady improvement in healthcare services. When a VA plan to contract with a Marianas doctor to see vets at an outreach clinic on Saipan was stalled, Sablan pushed to get the contract completed.

Sablan was also able to get statutory language enacted that allowed vets in any remote location in America to see non-VA community providers through the Veterans Choice Program, after he explained to other members of Congress the challenges veterans face when they can only access VA services by flying or taking a boat. When he learned the Choice program was not being well utilized in the Marianas, Sablan got the CEO of TriWest, the company in charge of managing the program, to come to the Marianas for a series of workshops with veterans and providers. As a result, the number of healthcare providers participating in Choice went from 21 to 80 and more veterans got better service.

After conducting a series of listening sessions and other outreach efforts with Marianas veterans last year who impressed upon Sablan the need for better mental health services, he appealed to the VA to do more to support island veterans struggling with transition to civilian life, post-traumatic stress, and other mental health issues. The Guam Vet Center responded to the delegate's call by launching clinical and outreach services for veterans in the Northern Marianas early this year. The Guam Vet Center is also assisting in a needs assessment that will be instrumental in establishing a stand-alone Vet Center in the Northern Marianas.

And, this month the VA added a licensed clinical social worker to its Marianas staff, the result of Sablan's meetings with VA Secretary David Shulkin and Undersecretary for Health Operations Steve Young last summer. The new social worker is William Moore, a retired Air Force major, who served as an embedded combat and operational stress control officer with the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. He had a leadership role in the Air Force's suicide prevention program, as well as programs addressing substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, and mental health/life skills. And he has already committed to working with partner agencies in the Marianas, sharing his experience in suicide prevention.

Vet count remains a problem

An issue for the CBOC feasibility study and for any VA staffing request is the number of veterans living in the Marianas who need the service. According to the Romanyk consultants, the typical threshold for a full-time, primary care VA physician is 1,200 veteran patients.

"We understand that close to 2,000 veterans are registered with the Commonwealth Veterans Affairs office, but the number of veterans who are actually signed up to receive VA healthcare is much lower," Sablan said. Only about 450 veterans are presently enrolled for VA health care.

To increase enrollment, Sablan's office recently initiated a registration drive.

"Our Wounded Warrior Congressional Fellow, Randy Johnson, has been setting up a tent at the Joeten Superstore on Saturdays, twice a month, working to encourage more people who have military service to register for VA services," Sablan said.

This month's registration drives are scheduled for Oct. 13 and 20, from 10am to 2pm at the Joeten Superstore in San Jose.

"I look forward to the completion of the CBOC feasibility study, and hope it will provide useful guidance for our efforts to enhance VA health care in the Marianas," Sablan said.

"But we need the numbers, too, to make the case for expanding and improving care," he added. "So, I urge all individuals who have served in our nation's armed forces to register now for VA services."

For more information about the congressional office's veterans registration drive, contact Johnson at 323-2647 or email randy.johnson@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Change of Company Name

This is to inform the general public that the name of the Company has been changed, from "Dongbu Insurance Company, Ltd." to "DB Insurance Co., Ltd.", with effect from 26 July 2018 as approved by the Insurance Commission, Department of Commerce of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The change of name of the Company as aforesaid does not alter the legal status or constitution of the Company nor does it affect any rights or obligations of the Company.

Moylan's Insurance Underwriters (Int'l.), Inc. remains as the authorized General Agent of the Company in the territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For and on behalf of
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Shinchul Kim
Guam - Branch Manager

Place: Saipan, CNMI

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Field of Heroes proceeds seek to help PTSD patients

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 3rd Annual Field of Heroes flag-posting last Oct. 7 at the American Memorial Park marks the start of an event that funds the treatment of veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to TanHoldings vice president for corporate affairs Cathy Attao-Toves, proceeds from the Field of Heroes event would be funneled to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in their efforts to help those with PTSD. The event is hosted by TanHoldngs and its charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

"It's very important for us to remember all of our community heroes. The decision to serve is such a big decision and is a decision that [the public] takes for granted on several different occasions," Toves said.

She cited a 2018 study from the University of Phoenix that, according to the study, 80 percent of firefighters report being exposed to traumatic events; over 90 percent of police and emergency medical technicians report exposure to trauma; 85 percent of first responders experience symptoms related to mental health issues; and 34 percent of EMT personnel report being formally diagnosed with PTSD, 10 times the rate of the general population.

These numbers are on top of the geographical challenges of the CNMI, Toves said, which makes it hard to access PTSD treatment here.

"With the alarming statistics and knowing that our location places us at a disadvantage in receiving additional support in resources for PTSD, we felt like this is an opportunity," she said. "We are very thankful… and we are trying to find ways so we can contribute."

On Saipan, the posting of flags was done yesterday at 8am at the American Memorial Park. The flags would be retired on Oct. 22, 2018. On Oct. 17, 2018, a Freedom Walk from Garapan Fishing Base to the American Memorial Park would be held, followed by the 9/11 ceremony at the site.

On Tinian, the posting of flags would be held today, and they would be retired on Oct. 27, 2018. The Freedom Walk, followed by the 9/11 ceremony at the site, would be on Oct. 23, 2018.

On Rota, the posting of flags would also be held today, and they would also be retired on Oct. 27, 2018. The Freedom Walk followed by the 9/11 ceremony at the site would be on Oct. 26, 2018.

Docomo Pacific representatives headed by Dino Manning, standing, far right, present a sponsorship check to Field of Heroes organizers Catherine Attao and Carline Sablan. Also in photo, standing, from left, Brent Deleon Guerrero, Clinton Dela Cruz, and Kevin McCale. Seated between Attao and Sablan are Liezl Balan and Pauline Johnson.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Saipan, Inc. is a Patron Sponsor of the 2018 Field of Heroes. From left, Maria Valentina Haberman, Jeremy Sager, Mel Naputi, Tracy Guerrero, Frank Ada, Raymond Zapanta, Galina Iakimova, and Runei Kono.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Variety's Laila Y. Boyer, center, and Bryan Manabat present a sponsorship check to TanHoldings' Carline B. Sablan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Mel Naputi, and TanHoldings' Catherine Attao, as a Stars & Stripes Sponsor of the 2018 Field of Heroes.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-18-022

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT
(W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline; connections to the existing waterlines; installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, flush hydrant, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **November 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-022, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 6 , 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Zoning Board
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. 670-234-9661, FAX 234-9666
E-mail ZoningBoard@zoning.gov.mp

Diego C. Blanco, Chairman Mariano Taitano, Treasurer Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Secretary Patrick Reyes, Member

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning announces its 8th annual Public Outreach Schedule

The Zoning Office has been conducting its 8th annual Public Outreach and Education Awareness meetings at specified locations around the island with community members, businesses, developers, property-owners, or any interested members of the general public the past several weeks. These meetings serve to disseminate information to the public about proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 and the Official Zoning maps, as well as to engage them in discussions to assist the Zoning Board's next update of the island's Zoning Law.

The following schedule includes the first 4 meetings in September, followed by additional dates and targeted villages.

DATE	PLACE	TIME
September 18, 2018	Multipurpose Center, Susupe	5:30pm
September 20, 2018	Dandan Middle School cafeteria, Dandan	5:30pm
September 25, 2018	GTC Elementary School cafeteria, San Roque	5:30pm
September 27, 2018	Kagman High School cafeteria, Kagman	5:30pm
ADDITIONAL DATES & VENUES		
October 02, 2018	GTC Elementary School cafeteria, San Roque	5:30pm
October 16, 2018	Saipan Southern High School cafeteria, Koblerville	5:30pm
October 18, 2018	Oleai Elementary School cafeteria, Oleai/San Jose	5:30pm
October 23, 2018	Tanapag Middle School cafeteria, Tanapag	5:30pm

The Zoning Board and Office encourages the public to join the meetings to learn more about the Law.

For more information, please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or visit the office located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building located in Dandan.

Social Security: 2.8 pct. benefit increase in 2019

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 67 million Americans will increase 2.8 percent in 2019, the Social Security Administration announced Friday.

The 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment will begin with benefits payable to more than 62 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2019. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31, 2018. Some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits.

The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the consumer price index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $132,900 from $128,400.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new benefit amount. This year, for the first time, most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their *my* Social Security account. People may create or access their *my* Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2019, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2019 are announced. Final 2019 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and *my* Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola. ***(PR)***

Arrest in Yigo pet killer case; suspect admits to killing cat

GUAM—Detectives of the Guam Police Department arrested on Friday Gerald Wayne Cruz II for a series of gruesome pet killings in Yigo. He is charged with two counts of animal cruelty (as a third-degree felony), with a special allegation of possession or use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony. More charges are possible as the case develops.

In a new development, Cruz is also being charged for the killing of a cat in May. Per a magistrate's complaint filed Friday, witnesses saw Cruz shoot and kill a cat in a neighbor's yard with a .22 rifle. The complaint also states that Cruz's wife witnessed him killing the cat, as well as his shooting and killing of a pet dog named Pugua.

Cruz admits to killing the cat, per the complaint, but he denies killing Pugua.

The case has been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecution. The first court appearance is scheduled for 3pm Friday, Oct. 12.

The penalty for animal cruelty (as a third-degree felony) is imprisonment for up three years (or up to five years if an individual has prior convictions), and a fine of up to $5,000. Additionally, the use of a firearm in committing a felony may result in a minimum of five years imprisonment.

"These killings were gruesome and senseless," said Cyrus Luhr, GAIN board president. "We're relieved a suspect was arrested, and look forward to swift justice for Pugua."

GAIN or Guam Animals in Need, recently announced a $3,000 reward for information related to the case; $1,000 to be awarded upon an arrest, and $2,000 upon conviction.

"We don't yet know who provided the tips that cracked the case," said Luhr, "but we look forward to giving out the reward."

GAIN will now follow-up with local authorities, as well as Guam Crime Stoppers, to determine who provided the information that helped solve the case. "We believe rewards help stop animal abuse, and with the aid of local donors, we hope to provide more rewards in the future," Luhr added.

The $3,000 reward on information on Pugua's killer was made possible thanks to generous donations by members of the Rotary Club of Guam, Dr. Thomas Poole, the territorial veterinarian, and additional donors who wish to remain anonymous.

"We thank GPD for their hard work on the case," said Luhr. "The public is outraged by these horrific killings, and we've received many, many requests for updates. Numerous business and local leaders have stepped forward asking how they can help. We're eager to see this case proceed and get answers."

Cruz was arrested and confined following interviews with potential witnesses, according to a statement issued by GPD Friday morning. These witnesses saw Cruz make threats against Pugua; a day after, Pugua was found shot dead in a family friend's carport. Numerous firearms and ammunition were confiscated from Cruz's home.

A gentle and playful 2-year-old Jack Russell and boonie mix, Pugua's body was found shot and possibly beaten in the carport of a family friend who was taking care of him during the day. ***(PR)***

Retired priest who admitted to molesting kids dies, 97

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A retired priest accused in more than 130 sexual abuse lawsuits and who admitted to molesting children on Guam has died.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports the Archdiocese of Agana says Louis Brouillard, who was ordained on Guam in 1948, died Wednesday in his native Minnesota. He was 97.

The archdiocese, in a statement released Friday, said Brouillard's health had been declining in recent months.

Brouillard served on Guam until 1981 as a parish priest in Mangilao, Chalan Pago, Barrigada, Malojloj and Tumon, and as a teacher at Father Duenas Memorial School.

Brouillard, in a 2016 interview with a *Pacific Daily News* reporter, stated "it's possible" he sexually abused boys while serving on Guam. He later signed an affidavit admitting to abusing 20 or more boys on the island.

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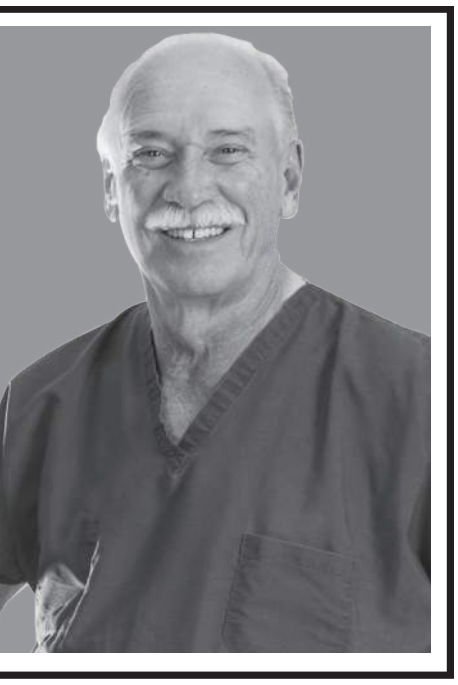

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EDITORIAL

The Catholic Church has only one path to healing: light and truth

The scourge of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church spans the globe and stretches back further than memory can reach.

Its impact on victims, many of them children, is immeasurable. The broken trust created by a church hierarchy more concerned with self-protection than the protection of the innocent and vulnerable has done incalculable damage to the faith of those who relied on the church, its priests and its teachings.

The only hope for healing is shining as much light and truth into the past as possible while upending a culture of concealment and, often, outright lies.

Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns and his fellow Texas bishops took a crucial step in that direction Tuesday with the assurance that they will release the names of all priests credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors in this state since 1950.

Survivors of priest sexual abuse have called for the release of these names for years. They understand that to begin to face the future, we must understand the past.

Burns has taken another important step, which he announced to parishioners Tuesday night during a "ceremony of sorrow" at St. Cecilia's Church in Oak Cliff. The diocese of Dallas has hired former law enforcement officers to review the files of all active priests and to look into any allegations that deserve greater scrutiny.

The fact that Burns has engaged professional third-party investigators, and not internal church staff, adds much-needed credibility to the review.

The files of priests, past and present, contain all sorts of information, from the mundane to the material. It will take investigators time to sort through everything. The Catholic Church should ensure that investigators have access to whatever resources are necessary to complete the process by Jan. 31, the deadline Burns announced, and that the investigation is comprehensive.

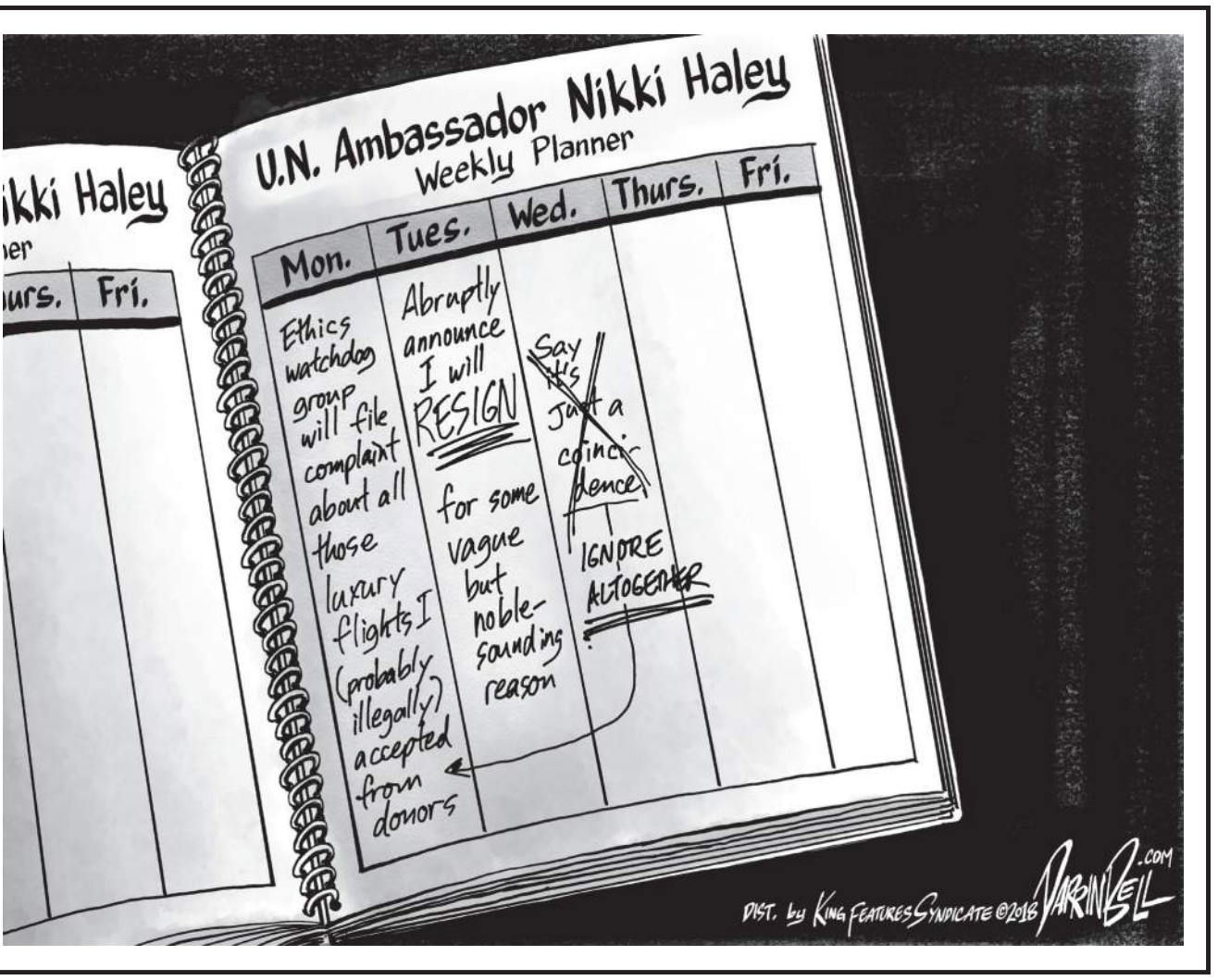
Meanwhile, all Texans, not simply Catholics, should be concerned about this effort to expose the worst of the past. The Catholic Church not only includes 8.5 million people in Texas, but its charitable work also reaches millions more, often as the most viable safety net outside of the government.

The pain of this process is not finished. A true investigation into credible allegations of abuse across the state and dating back nearly 70 years is certain to turn up the names of many, many priests.

Wounds long closed, if not truly healed, will be reopened. Survivors and those who love them will see the names of those who abused them written in ink and exposed, many likely for the first time.

Hurting again those already hurt is something no one would want. But opening the pages of the past to the truth is the path to true healing for the church and those it is supposed to shepherd.

(c)2018 *The Dallas Morning News*



Go ahead, forget the news

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include* The Complacent Class: The Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream. *Readers may email him at tcowen2@bloomberg.net*

Most of all, I am disoriented by the speed at which major news events pass into the rearview mirror in contemporary America.

Recently, a man was alleged to have mailed in letters to the Pentagon containing the raw material for the ricin poison. No one seems to have been harmed, but if this had happened in, say, 2003, it would have been a major news story for weeks or months. Now I type "ricin" into Google and the top news results are a week old. There hasn't been much coverage lately, nor have the 200-plus people in my Twitter feed been talking about it.

You might think this is because President Donald Trump is commanding all the attention, but even Trump-related stories often pass from view quickly. The New York Times published 15,000 words, taking up an entire section of the physical newspaper, documenting alleged tax fraud by Trump and his associated businesses (partial summary here). In earlier times such a story might have prompted impeachment proceedings or a presidential resignation. As it stands, I'm not seeing that this story has much in the way of legs. Trump supporters either ignore it or dismiss the source, while for Trump critics it probably isn't surprising.

Or remember that anonymous New York Times op-ed "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration"? It described how Trump's advisers and Cabinet often subvert his leadership by walking back his "half-baked, ill-informed and occasionally reckless decisions." In the Obama administration, that kind of confession would have been the top story of the year. Now it seems like ages since the article was published, though it was only Sept. 5. Even the debate as to who might have written the op-ed, or about the proper role of advisers to the chief executive, died down after the first few days.

I'm going to resist the temptation to attribute all this to attention deficit disorder. The shelf life for, say, sports stories doesn't seem to have changed much. So what might be going on in American political life?

The naive hypothesis is that we keep turning our attention to the very latest events because so much is happening so quickly. But there have been periods in the past when a lot was happening, such as the financial crisis of a decade ago, and the news cycle seemed "stickier" then. So this can't be the entire story.

An alternate theory is that there are actually very few "true events" happening, but there is lots of froth on the surface. Maybe there is only one "big event" happening, one major transformation underway: a change in the willingness of American political leaders to break with previous norms. If the change is mostly in one direction, then maybe it's enough to debate only the most recent news.

That may sound abstract, so here is a concrete analogy. Let's say you are on a sinking ship. You might focus more on the current water level than on where it was in the recent past, except maybe to help you estimate the rate of flooding. In more technical terms, talking about the event of the day is a "sufficient statistic" for talking about the last two years.

The shorter news cycle also may result from greater political polarization. If people don't frame events in a common way, then a discussion of those events might not last very long. Conversation will return very quickly to the underlying differences in worldviews, and discussion of any particular event will get trampled by a much larger philosophical debate. It does seem like we have been repeating the same general arguments about Trump, populism, gender and governing philosophy for some time now, and we are not about to stop.

Possibly the shorter news cycles are also a result of greater general disillusionment with politics and especially with elites, a theme outlined in Martin Gurri's forthcoming book "The Revolt of the Public." The really fun stuff might instead be watching mixed martial arts, debating social norms about gender and browsing the Instagram feeds of your friends.

Finally, maybe we're all just better at digesting news events more quickly. Perhaps every possible observation, insight and argument gets put on Facebook and Twitter within a day or two, and much of this material is archived. What's the point of repeating these debates every few months?

No matter which mix of those hypotheses applies, the shorter news cycle is probably here to stay, and the changes it will bring are just beginning. And now if you will forgive me, I need to go draft my next column.

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Sexual assault: How much has really changed?

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

On Thursday morning, Karen Pomer and I returned to Virginia Avenue in Santa Monica, a place that held many traumatic memories for her.

It was on this block in October 1995 that Karen was raped in her car by a man who had abducted her at gunpoint as she arrived home one late evening after a rally against domestic violence. This was shortly after the murder trial of O.J. Simpson, who had brutalized his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, during their marriage. Spousal abuse was on everyone's mind.

When her rapist left her to relieve himself, Karen escaped, and ran screaming to the first home she could get to. She pounded on the door but no one answered.

The gunman recaptured her, took her back to her car, drove to an alley south of Pico Boulevard and continued assaulting her until dawn.

In February 1996, Karen and I returned to Virginia Avenue.

She was one of the first rape victims I had ever written about who was not only willing to be named, but wanted to be named. Together, we decided to try to get some answers. Why had neighbors not opened their door to a screaming woman?

It turned out, they were too scared. Neighbors told us they called 911, and figured the cops would take care of things. But the police who responded never found Karen. They did not search a wide enough swath of the city; they never looked south of Pico.

Karen reported her assault right away. She correctly identified her suspected rapist from police photos, but detectives never tried to find him. The Santa Monica police detective assigned to her case was not only dismissive, she ended up in prison for shooting her married police officer boyfriend. A prosecutor told Karen that she would never be a victim because she knows karate.

The way Karen's case was handled was a stain on the reputation of the Santa Monica Police Department. More than five years would pass before the rapist, who had been in and out of prison for other crimes, was caught. He's now in prison for life for a litany of other felonies.

The system failed Karen. But so, really, did the culture.

One of the neighbors who opened her door to us in 1996 was polite but devastating.

She'd told us she'd read in the news that the screaming had come from a young woman who was being raped.

"We were wondering," she asked Karen, "what were you doing out so late?"

If you have not experienced the sting of victim blaming, it's hard to understand how much it hurts.

I'll never forget the look on Karen's face as her eyes filled with tears.

■■■

For those of us who have watched what seemed like a positive revolution in the way we think and talk about sexual assault, the last few weeks have felt like tumbling back in time.

After attesting to the credibility of Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when she was 15 and he was 17, President Trump viciously ripped into

GENARO MOLINA/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Karen Pomer, 63, a local political activist, stands across the street on Oct. 11, 2018 from two homes where she sought help 23 years ago when she was raped at gunpoint in Santa Monica, Calif., by Israel Harden, a Santa Monica car wash worker who was later convicted of raping several other women. At one point during the rape, she got away from him, and banged on doors in a neighborhood north of the Santa Monica Freeway. No one opened the door. Her attacker recaptured her, took her back to his car and raped her for several more hours.

Ford at one of his rallies. He mocked her inability to remember all the details of the night she said she was attacked by Kavanaugh, who now sits on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"How did you get home?" Trump said, his voice dripping sarcasm. "I don't remember. How did you get there? I don't remember. Where is the place? I don't remember. How many years ago was it? I don't know. I don't know. I don't know."

There is nothing unusual about that. "It's so weird trying to remember all this stuff," Karen told me Thursday as we tried to figure out which door she had pounded on the night of her rape. "You forget things."

In another blow to victims who step forward, First Lady Melania Trump told ABC News during a trip to Africa that women deserve to be heard, but only under certain conditions.

"We need to have really hard evidence, if you accused of something; show the evidence," the first lady said. "I do stand with women, but we need to show the evidence. You cannot just say to somebody 'I was sexually assaulted,' or 'You did that to me.'"

This is not standing with women; this is standing with perpetrators.

I called Gail Abarbanel, who founded the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center 40 years ago. Abarbanel is a soft-spoken, single-minded advocate for sexual assault victims who has pioneered a revolution in the way adult and child victims are treated.

"I don't know what 'hard evidence' is," Abarbanel said. "Rape is a violent crime, but most victims don't have serious visible injuries. The injuries are invisible, for the most part. And they hardly ever have witnesses. Almost never."

■■■

Over the last four decades, Abarbanel has witnessed and pushed for many improvements in the way the medical and justice systems treat sexual assault.

"There used to be so many discriminatory practices," she said. "Rape was such a stigma. You were damaged goods. Hospitals treated you like a low priority—the nurses would come out to the waiting room and say 'Where's the rape?'

"If you reported your rape to the police, you became a suspect and could be forced to take a lie detector test, or submit to a rape exam. Victims would be put on trial, the focus would be on their character and behavior and sexual history. You had to prove you resisted your attacker because we had resistance requirements in our rape laws."

And then, "one of the most discriminatory things we had," Abarbanel said, "were the instructions the judge had to give the jury: 'Rape is a charge that is easily made and hard to defend against, so examine the testimony of this witness with caution.'"

"We've changed a lot," Abarbanel said. "But it's very hard to change private attitudes and all these misconceptions."

What was she doing out so late? Why did she wait so long to report this? Why can't she remember every single detail? Why was she wearing that? Where is the "hard evidence"?

Karen Pomer, 63, a longtime social justice activist, has continued to fight for victims' rights. She is on the organizing committee for the second #MeToo Survivors' March, which is scheduled for Nov. 10 in Hollywood. "Please don't forget to mention that," she said.

How could I? We've got a president who boasts about assaulting women, a first lady who hasn't got a clue about sexual assault and a Senate that just put a man credibly accused of sexual assault on the Supreme Court.

The work is far from done.

Think political polls are junk science? Here's what you need to know

By STEVE KRASKE
The Kansas City Star

Steve Kraske is a member of The Star*'s editorial board and a former Star political correspondent.*

You're probably like a lot of people. You look at political polls and think, "I can't trust them."

But maybe you're the problem. Maybe you don't understand how they work and how much stock to put in them.

Maybe a poll doesn't match your perception of where a race stands, so you dismiss it (I've been guilty of this). Maybe you look back at 2016 and wonder how Donald Trump won the presidency when so many surveys suggested that Hillary Clinton would win. (In reality, the 2016 polls weren't that far off.)

Or maybe you've heard that polls these days don't include cellphones (they do, actually) or that pollsters wind up skipping big chunks of the electorate (they can account for this, too).

Patrick Miller, the astute University of Kansas political scientist, is a defender of polling. He says too many people don't understand it.

He and others point to 2016 when 12 of 13 national polls conducted shortly before the election had Clinton ahead. In hindsight, that's a catastrophe, right?

Maybe not. The polls survey the popular vote, and Clinton won the popular vote by 2.1 points. An average of the 13 final national polls showed Clinton ahead by 3.1 points. So the polls were pretty accurate.

Miller points out that final campaign polls might miss a late surge, and there's evidence that Trump, in fact, surged.

Listen, I'm not immune to the skepticism either. I remember a mid-June poll from state Sen. Laura Kelly that had her easily winning a three-way race for the Kansas Democratic gubernatorial nomination. In that survey, rival candidate Josh Svaty was in distant third place behind Kelly and Carl Brewer. Svaty called foul, and I thought he was right. Svaty was too good a candidate to be ensconced so far back. Chalk it up to another lousy poll.

Six weeks later, the three Democrats finished in precisely that order.

To be wise polling consumers, voters need to consider the margin of error. Not every Democrat in Kansas was surveyed. That's virtually impossible. So pollsters select what they hope is a representative sample. They attach to that an error margin to reflect that the sample could differ from the whole population.

In Missouri's U.S. Senate race, Fox News conducted one of the most recent polls, concluding the race was deadlocked at 46 percent with a margin of error of 3.5 percent. That means Claire McCaskill could have as much as 49.5 percent of the vote or as little as 42.5. The same with Josh Hawley.

It's a mistake to overlook those margins of error.

"Polls are supposed to be an approximation," Miller said.

The wild card in any survey is its weighting where the pollster adjusts the demographics of those surveyed to reflect the turnout the pollster expects on Election Day. The approximation of the number of Democrats and Republicans likely to show up can vary significantly from poll to poll, and that can have a significant impact on a survey's bottom line.

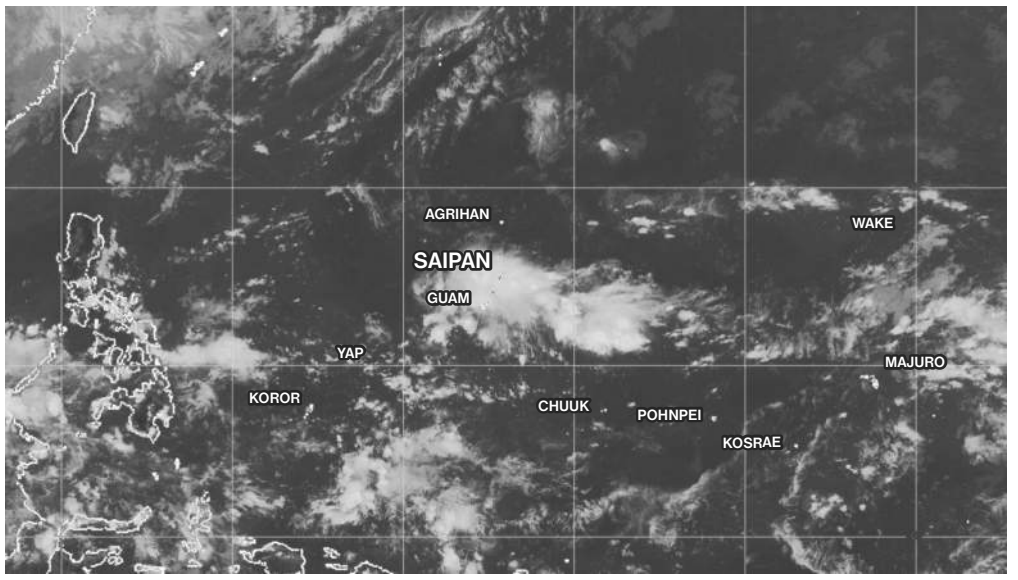
A poll is nothing more than a snapshot in time with a wider possible range than most people acknowledge. Given that, the reputable polls are still worth your time.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:50 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Recently satellite imagery shows that deep convection remains quite active across CNMI waters with thunderstorms and heavy rains continuing to develop. Have increased showers and thunderstorms for the CNMI and adjacent waters for today. The CNMI is in the convergence zone of ENE trades and weaker ESE winds associated with the surface trough now passing over the islands. Once the trough has passed west, the focus of convergence will also shift west, allowing showers to diminish.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
London	Sunny	64° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 54°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	65° / 51°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 50°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	77° / 59°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	83° / 56°
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	64° / 43°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	65° / 54°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET
5:50 AM	LOW TIDE	0.04
1:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
6:43 PM	LOW TIDE	1.19
10:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.53

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:20 AM	10:54 PM	-
Tuesday	12:09 AM	11:43 PM	-
Wednesday	12:56 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:33 AM	1:41 PM
Friday	-	1:22 AM	2:24 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Club 200 Celebrates 40 Years

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter recognizes their long-term volunteers during the Club 200 celebration last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Individuals who competed in the Club 200 costume competition pose for a photo last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter honored Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during the Club 200 celebration last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan for his continuous support of the chapter's mission. The award was accepted by first lady Diann Torres on his behalf.

A group of friends dress up as famous punk rock icons during the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Annual Club 200 celebration. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A dance competition breaks out during the 40th Annual Club 200 event last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

In celebration of the 40th Annual Club 200 event, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter honored the late governor Pedro P. Tenorio for his contributions in bringing the Red Cross to the CNMI. The award was accepted by Tenorio's wife, Sophia Tenorio.

The Kwerdas Band performs during the Club 200 celebration last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, prompting a member of the audience to join them onstage. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Ten individuals try their luck at over $2,000 worth of prizes during the treasure chest opening segment of the Club 200 celebration last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort Saipan. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

RED CROSS DONORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam as has once again provided the highest level of financial support to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. They have given at the Rock Star Level by providing $15,000 to support Club 200. Bank of Guam has consistently supported the Red Cross for more than 25 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific has also stepped up and provided a $10,000 gift. Imperial Pacific, through their CSR program, has been a leader for community projects for the past three years. They have worked with the Red Cross to further their community engagement. They recently sponsored the carnival games at the Red Cross annual Walkathon.

Business

Florida insurers to weather effects of Michael, analysts say

AP

People walk amidst rubble in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Fla., Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Florida's disjointed property insurance system that relies almost exclusively on small and midsize companies will take a multi-billion dollar loss from Hurricane Michael, but has sufficient reserves and backups that providers should be able to pay claims without problems, analysts say.

Major national players like State Farm, Allstate and Liberty Mutual write few if any homeowners policies in Florida because of the high risk of hurricane losses, leaving the market to smaller companies and the state-created insurer of last resort, Citizens Property.

Boston-based Karen Clark & Company, which models catastrophes, estimates Florida private insurers will pay $6 billion in claims for wind and storm surge damage to residential, commercial and industrial properties and vehicles. The estimate doesn't include losses covered by the National Flood Insurance Program, which has about 60,000 policies in the hardest-hit Florida counties. The program had no immediate estimate on its losses.

Analysts say that, despite their smaller size, Florida insurers should be able to cover their Michael losses through re-insurance - policies insurance companies purchase from global companies like Lloyd's of London to cover catastrophic losses. Most of the state's damage from Wednesday's Category 4 storm is in the sparsely populated Panhandle, lessening the financial blow.

Florida insurers "are built to be able to withstand these types of storms that are expected to happen every 10 to 15 years," according to Brian C. Schneider, a senior director at the analytics firm Fitch Ratings. The company said the reinsurance programs performed well after Hurricane Irma last year, which caused about $50 billion in damages in Florida.

But, Schneider said, the industry believes many Florida insurers would not survive if a major storm made a direct hit on Miami, Tampa or another major city. The re-insurance company Swiss Re estimated last year that a Category 5 storm hitting Miami could potentially cost the industry almost $200 billion. The state has about $17 billion in a fund to help private companies pay hurricane claims if they run into trouble.

Major insurance companies fled Florida's homeowners market after 1992's Category 5 Hurricane Andrew hit south of Miami, destroying much of the city of Homestead and causing $45 billion in damages, adjusted for inflation. After the companies fled, many property owners could only get policies from Citizens Property and its predecessor, peaking at about 1.5 million policies in 2012.

The state, wanting to reduce its exposure, for most of the last 20 years has been enticing smaller, niche companies into the market but required them to obtain re-insurance. The industry was also helped by a 12-year gap between hurricanes hitting the state from 2005 to last year. Their revenue is helped as Florida has the most expensive homeowners insurance in the nation, according to the Insurance Information Institute, with homeowners paying an average annual cost of just under $2,000 in 2015, the latest year available.

The push worked as Citizens' footprint has shrunk by 72 percent, but remains the state's second-largest property insurer with about 420,000 policies - most of them in South Florida, far from Michael's damage zone. Spokesman Michael Peltier said the company estimates it will receive about 12,000 claims from Michael, but hasn't calculated an expected loss yet. Because its policies are in the highest-risk areas of the state, its average policy costs nearly $2,600 annually with a range from about $3,600 in Miami and the Florida Keys to about $1,700 in Taylor County, not far from where Michael hit.

Trump's business ties to kingdom run long and deep

NEW YORK (AP)—He's booked hotel rooms and meeting spaces to them, sold an entire floor in one of his buildings to them and, in desperate moments in his career, gotten a billionaire from the country to buy his yacht and New York's Plaza Hotel overlooking Central Park.

President Donald Trump's ties to Saudi Arabia run long and deep, and he's often boasted about his business ties with the kingdom.

"I love the Saudis," Trump said when announcing his presidential run at Trump Tower in 2015. "Many are in this building."

Now those ties are under scrutiny as the president faces calls for a tougher response to the kingdom's government following the disappearance, and possible killing, of one of its biggest critics, journalist and activist Jamal Khashoggi.

"The Saudis are funneling money to him," said former federal ethics chief Walter Shaub, who is advising a watchdog group suing Trump for foreign government ties to his business. That undermines "confidence that he's going to do the right thing when it comes to Khashoggi."

Trump paid his first foreign visit as president to Saudi Arabia last year, praised its new young ruler and boasted of striking a deal to sell $110 billion of U.S. weapons to the kingdom.

But those close ties are in peril as pressure mounts from Congress for the president to find out whether Khashoggi was killed and dismembered after entering a Saudi consulate in Turkey, as Turkish officials have said without proof.

Trump said Friday that he will soon speak with Saudi Arabia's king about Khashoggi's disappearance. But he also has said he doesn't want to scuttle a lucrative arms deal with the kingdom and noted that Khashoggi, a U.S. resident, is not a citizen. For its part, Saudi Arabia has called allegations it killed Khashoggi "baseless."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Britain to introduce new, more secure 50-pound notes

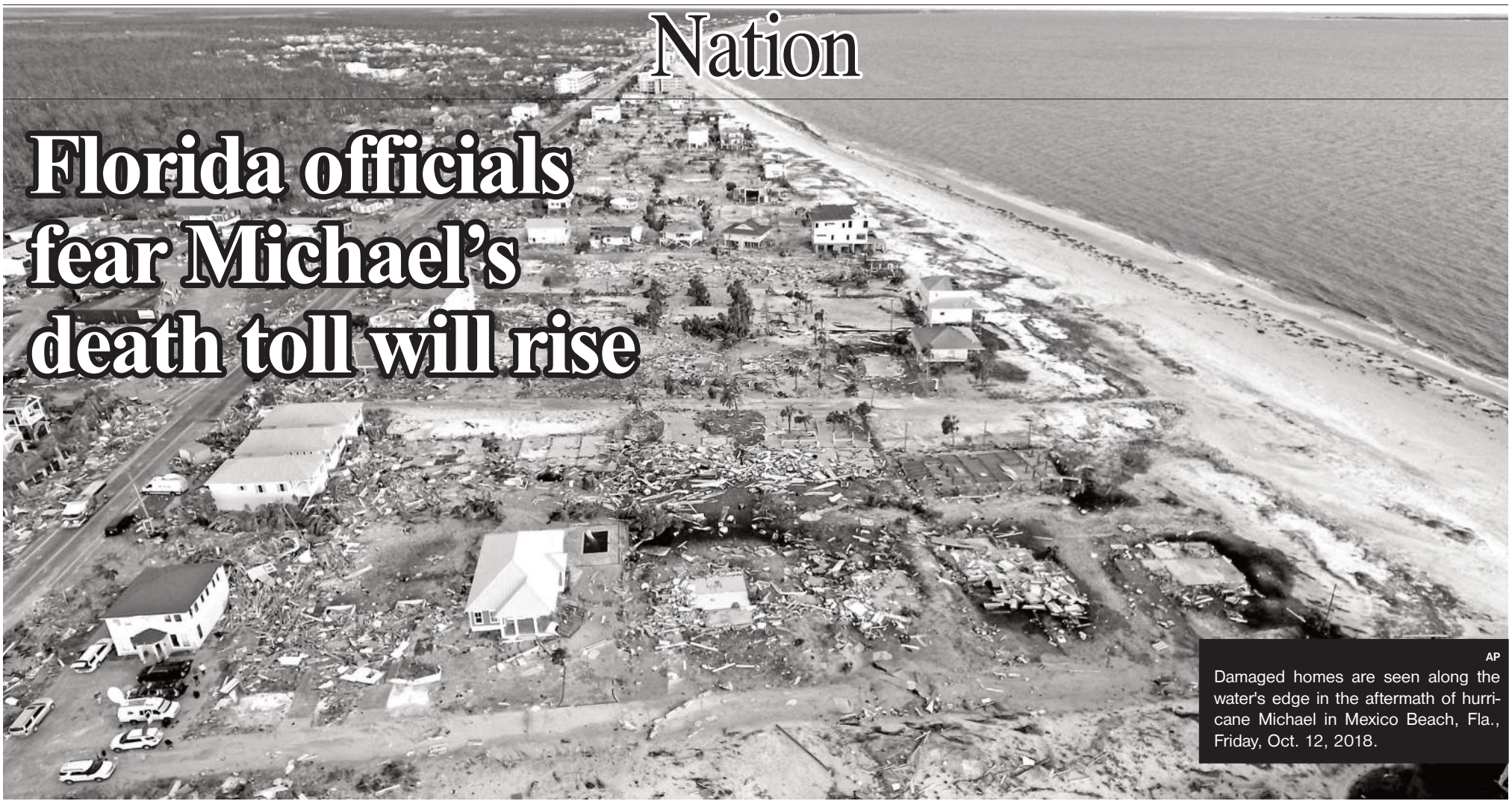
LONDON (AP)—Britain plans to keep the 50-pound ($65) note part of its currency by introducing a new more secure version of its highest value bill. The Bank of England said Saturday the new 50-pound note will be printed on thin, flexible polymer with extra security measures to prevent forgeries. Officials say the public will be consulted over which British figure will adorn the new bill. The new note will not be introduced until the newest version of the 20-pound note enters circulation in 2020. Bank officials say polymer is cleaner and more durable than paper money and also allows for extra security features to be added. It is already being used in Britain 5-pound and 10-pound notes.

Walmart to settle California cashier suit for $65 million

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Walmart has agreed to pay $65 million to settle a lawsuit over its refusal to provide seats for its California cashiers. The giant retailer denied wrongdoing in its proposed settlement, which was filed this week in federal court in San Francisco, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. A judge must approve the deal, which would end a nearly decade-old lawsuit and affect about 100,000 current and former Walmart cashiers in the state. "Both sides are pleased to have reached a proposed resolution and look forward to the court granting preliminary approval to the settlement," Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove said in a statement. The 2009 class-action lawsuit on behalf of a cashier alleged that Walmart violated a 2001 California wage order that employees must be provided seats "when the nature of the work reasonably permits."

Nation

Florida officials fear Michael's death toll will rise



AP
Damaged homes are seen along the water's edge in the aftermath of hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Fla., Friday, Oct. 12, 2018.

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Search and rescue personnel are continuing to comb through the ruins of a small Florida Panhandle community destroyed by Hurricane Michael, which has left hundreds thousands without power and without easy access to supplies.

So far, one body has been found in Mexico Beach, but authorities say there is little doubt the death toll will rise.

Crews with dogs went door-to-door Saturday in Mexico Beach, pushing aside debris to get inside badly damaged structures in a second wave of searches following what they described as an initial, "hasty" search of the area. About 1,700 search and rescue personnel have checked 25,000 homes, Florida Gov. Rick Scott said.

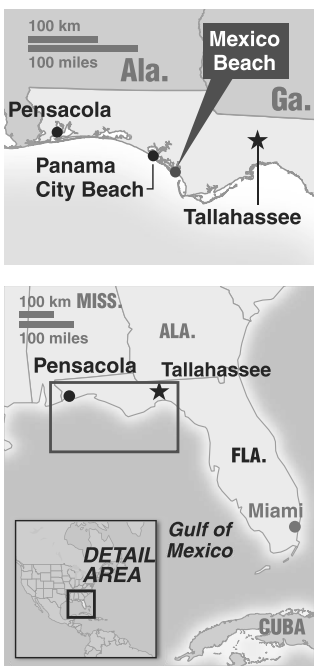
Michael made landfall Wednesday as a Category 4 hurricane with 155 mph winds (249 kph) and heavy storm surge. The tally of lives lost across the South stood at 15, including the victim found in the rubble of Mexico Beach, where about 1,000 people live.

"Everything is time consuming," said Capt. Ignatius Carroll, of the South Florida Urban Search and Rescue task force. "You don't want to put a rush on a thorough rescue."

More roads were passable along the storm-ravaged coast as crews cleared downed trees and power lines, but traffic lights remained out and there were long lines at the few open gas stations.

Tom Garcia surveyed the damage to an apartment block on the coast road in Mexico Beach, Florida, pacing along in his walker through the debris on Friday. (Oct. 13)

About 4,000 members of Florida's national guard have been called up to deal with the storm, including 500 added on Saturday. Nearly 2,000 law-enforcement officials have been sent into the Panhandle.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Schools will stay closed indefinitely, a hospital halted operations and sent 200 patients to hospitals elsewhere in Florida and in Alabama, and more than 253,000 customers in the Panhandle remain without power.

"Everybody just needs to help each other right now," Scott said after meeting with emergency responders in the Panama City area.

"You feel sorry for people," Scott said. "They might have lost their house. They worry about their kids getting into school. You know, people don't sit and have a whole bunch of extra money in the bank just waiting for a disaster."

Some residents were packing up and getting as far away as they could.

Mourners pack funeral for 8 of 20 killed in NY limo crash

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. (AP)—Mourners at a funeral for four sisters and their family members killed in a New York limousine crash were assured Saturday that their loved ones can still see their tears and feel their heartache.

On a damp, chilly day, hundreds of people packed the pews of an old brick church in Amsterdam at the service for eight of the 20 people killed last Saturday when the limousine they hired for a 30th birthday celebration crashed. The stretch limo barreled down a hill past a stop sign into another vehicle in the parking lot. All 17 passengers and the driver were killed, as well as two pedestrians standing in the parking lot.

"The question that is in the hearts of so many is: Why?" The Rev. O. Robert DeMaritnis told hundreds of mourners. "Why did these 20 individuals have to be taken from us so quickly and so unexpectedly?"

DeMaritnis spoke on an altar flanked by pictures of Allison King, sister Abigail Jackson and her husband Adam Jackson, sister Mary Dyson and her husband Robert Dyson, sister Amy Steenburg and her husband Axel Steenburg and his older brother, Richard Steenburg.

Urns containing their remains were placed beneath the pictures, with each of the three married couples sharing urns. Five teddy bears lay by the urns, one for each young child who lost a parent.

A week ago, the group—most of them in their 30s—was headed to a birthday party for Amy Steenburg at a local brewery in Cooperstown. DeMaritnis said he believes Amy and her friends were able to celebrate Amy's 30th birthday, but in their afterlife. He told mourners to take solace in their eternal life.

DeMaritnis married Amy and Axel Steenburg in June. He recalled them as a laughter-loving couple who made a sign asking wedding guests not to take pictures, because "we suggest that you live in the moment."

He had wondered why they never picked up the sign. Now, he said, he knew.

"That's what they're asking me to ask you to do today," DeMaritnis said, holding the sign aloft.

The sisters grew up in Amsterdam, a small upstate New York city, and many of the victims have deep ties to the area. The city has been stricken with grief amid a series of funerals.

Meanwhile, authorities continue to investigate the cause of the crash while prosecutors have charged the operator of the limo company, Nauman Hussain, with criminally negligent homicide, saying he allowed an improperly licensed driver to operate an "unserviceable" vehicle.

ACROSS THE NATION

Teacher says Cruz posed as student months before shooting

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP)—Records released by prosecutors reveal that Florida school shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz trespassed on school grounds about six months before the massacre that left 17 dead. A Parkland computer science teacher says she saw Cruz on the first day of school in August 2017, carrying a backpack and hanging with other students as if he were one of them. He was kicked out of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School the previous year. Sandra Rennie's interview was released by prosecutors Friday. She said Cruz told her he was a student again and she welcomed him back, but immediately asked an administrator whether he was in her classes. She said the administrator left to escort him off school grounds. Rennie had previously taught Cruz. She said he once became angry because the school computer prevented him from researching different types of hunting guns.

Man convicted in death of wife found in Lake Erie

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man accused of killing his wife and tossing her body into Lake Erie faces a mandatory life sentence without possibility of parole following his first-degree murder conviction. Christopher Leclair, who faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole, was also convicted Friday on other charges, including abuse of a corpse, evidence-tampering and false reports, after jurors deliberated for an hour and 40 minutes, the Erie Times-News reported . Prosecutors in Erie County said the Albion resident was having an affair and killed his 51-year-old wife, Karen, in the summer of 2017 because his girlfriend had given him an ultimatum to choose between her and his wife. Authorities said Leclair, who will be sentenced Dec. 11, reported his wife missing in June 2017, but dock surveillance images showed the two leaving and him returning alone, and he went out on the lake the next day and put out a distress call saying she had apparently fallen overboard.

Someone put googly eyes on a Georgia monument

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia city is searching for a vandal who put googly eyes on a historic monument. A post on the City of Savannah Government Facebook page asks: "Who did this?! ... It may look funny but harming our historic monuments and public property is no laughing matter, in fact, it's a crime." Police spokeswoman Keturah Greene says police are investigating the incident involving the Nathanael Greene Monument, which was reported Thursday. Greene was a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and is buried in Johnson Square near his monument. The Savannah Morning News reports criminal trespass is a misdemeanor offense in Georgia. However, if the damage is more than $500, it's a felony called criminal damage to property.

Asia

27 dead in floods, landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Torrential rains triggered flash floods and landslides on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, killing at least 27 people, including a dozen children at a school, officials said Saturday.

A flash flood with mud and debris from landslides struck Mandailing Natal district in North Sumatra province and smashed an Islamic school in Muara Saladi village, where 29 children were swept away on Friday afternoon, said local police chief Irsan Sinuhaji.

He said rescuers retrieved the bodies of 11 children from mud and rubble hours later.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesman, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, said rescuers and villagers managed to rescue 17 other children and several teachers on Friday and pulled out the body of a child on Saturday near Aek Saladi river, close to the school.

A video obtained by The Associated Press showed relatives crying besides their loved ones at a health clinic where the bodies of the children were lying, covered with blankets.

Nugroho said two bodies were found early Saturday from a car washed away by floods in Mandailing Natal, where 17 houses collapsed and 12 were swept away. Hundreds of other homes were flooded up to 2 meters (7 feet) high, while landslides occurred in eight areas of the region.

Four villagers were killed after landslides hit 29 houses and flooded about 100 buildings in neighboring Sibolga district, Nugroho said.

He said flash floods also smashed several villages in West Sumatra province's Tanah Datar district, killing five people, including two children, and leaving another missing. Landslides and flooding in the neighboring districts of Padang Pariaman and West Pasaman killed four villagers after 500 houses flooded and three bridges collapsed.

Both North and West Sumatra provinces declared a weeklong emergency relief period as hundreds of terrified survivors fled their hillside homes to safer ground, fearing more of the mountainside would collapse under continuing rain, Nugroho said, adding that dozens of injured people were rushed to nearby hospitals and clinics.

Seasonal downpours cause frequent landslides and floods each year in Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains.

AP

Rescuers search for victims following a flash flood in Mandailing Natal district, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018.

Afghan official: 14 killed in bombing at candidate rally

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A motorcycle rigged with explosives detonated at an election rally in northeastern Afghanistan on Saturday killing at least 14 people, including civilians and security forces, officials said.

Khalil Aser, spokesman for the provincial police chief in Takhar province, said 32 others were wounded when the explosives-laden motorbike parked near the rally in Rustaq district blew up.

"There are a number of wounded people in critical condition," he said.

The attack took place at about noon before Nazefa Yusoufi Beg, a female candidate running for a seat in parliament in the Oct. 20 elections, arrived at the rally, Aser said. It was not immediately clear if she was the target.

Jawad Hajri, spokesman for the provincial governor, said Rustaq is a remote district where insurgent attacks have not occurred in the past and the candidate's supporters had gathered for the rally confident they would be safe.

Adeb Hamra, a local resident, said in a telephone interview that the district government hospital has only four doctors and was overwhelmed with dead and wounded, most of them in critical condition.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Taliban insurgents are active in the province and have claimed pervious attacks there.

Meanwhile, in a separate attack Saturday that targeted the office of a candidate in western Herat province, at least two people including a security guard and a child were killed, said Gelani Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor.

He said one other person was wounded after two gunmen riding a motorcycle opened fire at the campaign office of parliamentary candidate Sayed Azem Kabrzani in the Injil district.

"The candidate himself was not in the office when the attack happened and he is safe," said Farhad. A police investigation was begun to find out more about the attack, he said.

These were not the first attacks targeting a political campaign this year.

On Tuesday, eight people including candidate Saleh Mohammad Achekzai, were killed when a suicide bomber struck Achekzai's home In Helmand province. He was holding a meeting at the time of the attack in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

On Oct. 2, just days after official campaigning began, a suicide bomber struck an election rally in eastern Nangarhar province, killing at least 14 people and wounding around 40.

Last week, Taliban insurgents issued a statement condemning the elections and warning candidates and Afghan Security Forces that they would be targets if they participate. The Taliban called the polls a U.S.-manipulated event to further their hold on the country.

There are 2,565 candidates vying for seats in the 249-member chamber, including 417 women candidates.

In the run-up to campaigning, five candidates have been killed in separate attacks. Officials from the country's Independent Election Commission said another two candidates have been abducted, with their fates unknown, and three others have been wounded in violence. Afghan security forces accidentally killed three bodyguards of an independent candidate during a raid on a house near his residence in the eastern Kunar province.

In a separate report from eastern Logar province Saturday, at least five civilians were killed when a bomb exploded during a wedding ceremony, said Shah Poor Ahmadzai, the provincial police chief's spokesman.

Ahmadzai said seven others were wounded in the attack late Friday, which took place in Mohammad Agha district.

Mohammad Naser Ghairat, a provincial council member in Logar, said the bomb was planted near the house where the wedding was taking place and targeted the participants of the wedding.

Ahmadzai said initial reports show both the groom and bride were not hurt. An investigation was begun to find out more and the death toll could rise, he said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Taliban insurgents are active in the province.

PH, Vietnam leaders discuss disputed sea boundaries

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Vietnam's prime minister have discussed efforts by their countries to delineate their maritime boundaries in the disputed South China Sea, most of which is claimed by China.

Duterte said Friday, without elaborating, that he told Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in a meeting in Indonesia that such boundary talks may take longer because the Philippines is still establishing its continental shelf limit, or the country's outermost boundary.

"I told him that in due time, but we will take a longer period for we have to establish even our continental shelf limits," Duterte said he told Phuc in a meeting on the sidelines of a gathering of Southeast Asian leaders on Indonesia's Bali island.

Vietnam initiated the on-and-off talks years ago.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia, which belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, along with China and Taiwan have been locked for decades in territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Tensions flared after China turned seven disputed reefs into islands which it later equipped with surface-to-air missile defense systems, in moves that triggered alarm and protests.

"Vietnam is our ASEAN brother and they have been supporting us in many ways and we have been supporting them," Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano told reporters.

"But they're also claimants like us. They also have features that are inside our EEZ," Cayetano said, referring to the stretch of waters in which a coastal state enjoys internationally recognized rights to exclusively fish and extract oil and gas in the seabed.

Carl Thayer of the University of New South Wales, Canberra, said China would oppose the Philippine-Vietnam talks because Beijing claims most of the strategic waterway where the two Southeast Asian neighbors want to define their maritime boundaries.

Efforts by the two Southeast Asian nations to define their maritime boundaries are significant because ASEAN and China are negotiating a regional code to prevent clashes arising from overlapping claims. China, however, has not clearly defined its sweeping claims, Thayer said.

Some Southeast Asian countries have successfully forged agreements to delineate their overlapping exclusive economic zones and continental shelves in the past, he said.

World

Saudi writer's disappearance strains Turkey-Saudi ties

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—At first glance, the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi from the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul is just the latest crisis to strain relations between the kingdom and Turkey in the wake of the Arab Spring in 2011.

Yet, like elsewhere in the region, things are more complicated than they initially appear.

Saudis and other Gulf Arabs still flock to Istanbul and purchase property throughout a country viewed as having one foot in Europe and another in the Mideast. The kingdom remains one of the top foreign investors in Turkey, providing crucial hard currency amid a crisis in the Turkish lira.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's support of Islamist groups clashes with the stance of Gulf sheikhdoms that view groups like the Muslim Brotherhood as threats to their hereditary rule.

Erdogan also maintains links to Iran, Saudi Arabia's Mideast archrival, and Qatar, a nation now boycotted by the kingdom and three other Arab nations over a political dispute.

All this together requires Ankara to maintain a careful balancing act.

"Turkey is at the center of an economic storm and has very few friends to turn to for help. Ankara-Washington relations are at an all-time low. Turkey-Russia relations are vulnerable and relations with Europeans are complicated," wrote Gonul Tol, the director of the Turkey program at the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

"To avoid further problems, Turkey has been trying hard not to further strain ties with Saudi Arabia," Tol said.

That hasn't been helped by the Oct. 2 disappearance of Khashoggi, a contributor to The Washington Post whose writing helped interpret to the West the opaque machinations of the Saudi royal court.

AP

A flag of Saudi Arabia flies behind barb wire, on the roof top of Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018.

Khashoggi wrote columns critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the 33-year-old son of King Salman, and had lived in the United States over the last year in a self-imposed exile.

Turkish officials fear a Saudi team of 15 men killed and dismembered the writer at the consulate. They have yet to publish any evidence of him being slain, though surveillance footage around the consulate shows a convoy of vehicles with diplomatic license plates leaving the Saudi Consulate for the consul's home in Istanbul a little under two hours after Khashoggi's arrival.

Reports in Turkish media and the Post suggest Turkish officials have both video and audio of the killing, something The Associated Press has been unable to confirm.

Saudi Arabia meanwhile maintains that the allegations against it are "baseless," but has yet to offer any proof that Khashoggi simply walked out of the consulate and disappeared into Istanbul, despite his fiancée waiting for him outside.

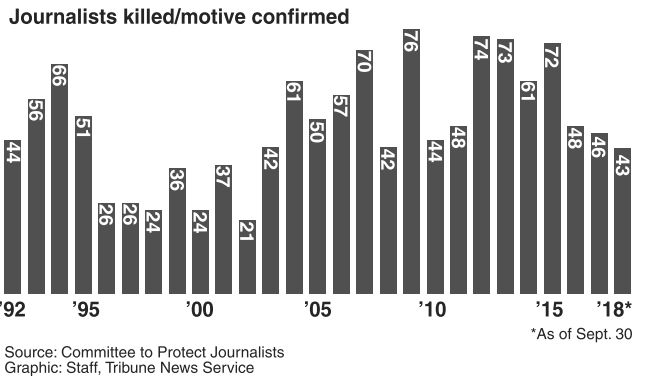
The crisis comes at a sensitive time for Erdogan. The Turkish lira has depreciated by close to 40 percent against the U.S. dollar since the start of the year. Inflation has spiked. Part of that rests on the massive loans taken out by the country during a construction boom under Erdogan, which helped fuel his popularity.

President Donald Trump accounts for some of that pain as well. Trump in August doubled tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum imports, as well as sanctioned two Turkish officials, over the imprisonment of American evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson, who faced terrorism charges. Turkey responded by putting its own tariffs on U.S. imports and vowed to boycott American electronic goods.

On Friday, however, a Turkish court freed Brunson after nearly two years in detention, allowing him to leave the country for America. That may help ease tensions between Turkey, a NATO ally since the Cold War, and the U.S.

Journalists killed since 1992

Journalists killed in the line of duty, including those murdered in reprisal for their work as well as those killed in combat or crossfire or on other dangerous assignments.



Source: Committee to Protect Journalists
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Pope defrocks 2 Chilean bishops accused of sex abuse

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis on Saturday defrocked two more Chilean bishops accused of sexually abusing minors, and to show greater transparency about how he's responding to the church's global sex abuse crisis, he publicly explained why they were removed.

The Vatican's unusually detailed statement announcing the laicization of retired Archbishop Francisco Jose Cox Huneeus and retired Bishop Marco Antonio Ordenes Fernandez signaled a new degree of transparency following past missteps by Francis that showed he had grossly underestimated the gravity of the abuse scandal.

The statement said the two were defrocked for abusing minors with evidence so overwhelming that a canonical trial was unnecessary. The Vatican said the decision cannot be appealed.

Cox, 87 and suffering from dementia, is a member of the Schoenstatt religious order and had served as a bishop in Chillan, Chile before becoming the No. 2 official at the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family, a high-profile position during St. John Paul II's papacy.

He returned to Chile and became bishop in La Serena until he left in 1997 under unclear circumstances, but took on administrative jobs in Rome and at the Latin American bishops' conference in Colombia.

In 2002, the Vatican office for bishops asked the Schoenstatt Fathers to take him in one of its houses, apparently because of abuse allegations. He has been living in Germany since then but last year a new, formal accusation was received by the Vatican about an alleged case of abuse that happened in Germany in 2004.

The Schoenstatt Fathers said Saturday the Vatican had asked that Cox remain in their custody. The order said it would cooperate with the justice system, given that victims in Chile have made criminal complaints against him.

"We receive this news with much shame for the damage caused to the victims," the community said. "We show solidarity with them and their profound suffering. Today more than ever, we deplore every act of abuse that offends the dignity of people."

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi-led airstrike kills 17 in contested Yemeni port city

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—An airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition targeting Yemen's Shiite rebels known as Houthis killed at least 17 people in the port-city of Hodeida on Saturday, Yemeni rebel officials said. The strike, which hit in the Jebel Ras area, also wounded 20 people, a spokesman for the rebel-run Health Ministry, Youssef al-Hadari, said. Hodeida, with its key port installations that bring in U.N. and other humanitarian aid, has become the center of Yemen's conflict, with ground troops allied to the coalition struggling to drive out the rebels who control it. Tribal leaders said the strike hit traffic, including a bus that was completely destroyed, killing all inside, adding that women and children were among the dead. The tribal leaders spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety.

Tens of thousands in Berlin protest racism, discrimination

BERLIN (AP)—Tens of thousands of people protested racism and discrimination Saturday in Berlin, a demonstration that came amid rising concerns about Germany's increasingly confident far right. A wide range of groups, including pro-refugee, gay rights and Muslim organizations, backed the "Indivisible" protest in the heart of the German capital under the slogan "solidarity instead of exclusion—for an open and free society." Last year's German election saw the far-right Alternative for Germany party enter the national parliament. Anti-migrant violence a few weeks ago in the eastern city of Chemnitz has added to concerns. Organizers said more than 240,000 people turned out Saturday, while police on Twitter cited a turnout figure in "the low six-digit region." Among backers was Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who told the Funke newspaper group that he welcomed "a great signal" that "the majority in our country stands for tolerance and openness."

Right-wing march in London turns violent, 1 arrested

LONDON (AP)—London police have made at least one arrest at as a march by a right-wing political group turned violent in the British capital. Hundreds of supporters of the Democratic Football Lads Alliance were walking in central London on Saturday when a few started pushing the British police monitoring the march. One person threatened a policeman and screamed, "I'll kill you!" Police were deployed at Trafalgar Square to keep the Football Lads from a group of counter-demonstrators, including some who shouted "Nazi scum, off our streets!" The Football Lads website said the march was meant to protest Islamic extremists returning to England from Syria, migrants coming into Britain and what it called the mistreatment of U.K. veterans. Police had imposed time limits on the march to reduce the potential for trouble.

Focus

AP

In this Sept. 9, 2018, file photo, a health worker sprays disinfectant on his colleague after working at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Eastern Congo. Sometimes violent community resistance is complicating efforts to contain Congo's latest Ebola outbreak, causing the rate of new cases to rise.

Battles over safe Ebola burials complicate work in Congo

By AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO and CARA ANNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BENI, Congo (AP)—A runaway hearse carrying an Ebola victim has become the latest example of sometimes violent community resistance complicating efforts to contain a Congo outbreak—and causing a worrying new rise in cases.

The deadly virus' appearance for the first time in the far northeast has sparked fear. Suspected contacts of infected people have tried to slip away. Residents have assaulted health teams. The rate of new Ebola cases has more than doubled since the start of this month, experts say.

Safe burials are particularly sensitive as some outraged family members reject the intervention of health workers in the deeply personal moment, even as they put their own lives at risk.

On Wednesday, a wary peace was negotiated over the body of an Ebola victim, one of 95 deaths among 172 confirmed cases so far, Congo's health ministry said. Her family demanded that an acquaintance drive the hearse, while they agreed to wear protective gear to carry the casket. A police vehicle would follow.

On the way to the cemetery, however, the hearse peeled away "at full speed," the ministry said. A violent confrontation followed with local youth once the hearse was found at the family's own burial plot elsewhere. The procession eventually reached the cemetery by day's end.

The next day, with a better understanding of what was at stake, several family members appeared voluntarily at a hospital for Ebola vaccinations, the ministry said.

"They swore no one had manipulated the corpse," it added. Ebola spreads via bodily fluids of those infected, including the dead.

The Beni community where the confrontation occurred is at the center of Ebola containment efforts. To the alarm of the World Health Organization and others, it is also where community resistance has been the most persistent—and where many of the new cases are found.

Chronic mistrust after years of rebel attacks is part of the "toxic mix" in Beni, WHO's emergencies chief, Peter Salama, said in a Twitter post.

So far, the Ebola work in Beni has been suspended twice since the outbreak was declared on Aug. 1. A "dead city" of mourning in response to a rebel attack caused the first. Wednesday's violence caused the second. With each pause, crucial efforts to track thousands of possible Ebola contacts can slide, risking further infections.

Defending themselves, Beni residents have pointed out the shock of having one of the world's most notorious diseases appear along with strangers in biohazard suits who tell them how to say goodbye to loved ones killed by the virus.

"Until now we didn't know enough about Ebola and we felt marginalized when Red Cross agents came in and took the corpse and buried it without family members playing a role," Beni resident Patrick Kyana, who said a friend lost his father to the virus, told The Associated Press. "It's very difficult. Imagine that your son dies and someone refuses to let you assist in his burial. In Africa we respect death greatly."

Until recently many people in Beni didn't believe that Ebola existed, thinking it was a government plot to further delay presidential elections, Kizito Hangi, president of Beni's civil society, told the AP.

Now the population has started to catch on and cooperate, Hangi said. "The problem was that the health workers all came from outside, but local specialists have been included to persuade and inform people in local languages."

The head of emergency Ebola operations with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jamie LeSueur, acknowledged the problem. In early October two Red Cross volunteers were severely injured in an attack during safe burials in the community of Butemo. Another volunteer was injured in September by people throwing stones.

"It raised a lot of questions for all of us. Where is the violence coming from?" he said. They have stepped up efforts to collaborate with communities and be clearer about messaging while working within cultural norms as best as possible.

"Of course there are limitations," LeSueur said. "Some people like to view the corpse as it is buried but with Ebola it is difficult to open up the body bag." In the emotionally charged environment where families have lost loved ones, a misstep could quickly raise tensions.

While Congo's government is acting to give more protection to its own safe burial teams in Beni, LeSueur noted that the "militarization" of similar efforts in the far deadlier Ebola outbreak in West Africa a few years ago led some residents to hide or not report deaths from the virus.

"I don't think that will be the case in this event" but everyone remembers that lesson, he said.

With its position of neutrality the Red Cross doesn't use armed guards in any case, LeSueur added. "Community acceptance, that's our security."

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

How to overcome the top 5 fitness barriers

Sticking to a regular exercise schedule isn't easy. After all, there are plenty of potential hindrances—time, boredom, injuries, self-confidence. But these issues don't need to stand in your way.

Darcy Reber, nurse practitioner at Mayo Clinic Health System in Cannon Falls, shares practical strategies for overcoming common barriers to fitness.

"I don't have enough time to exercise."

Setting aside time to exercise can be a challenge. Use a little creativity to get the most out of your time. Squeeze in exercise throughout the day. If you don't have time for a full workout, don't sweat it. Shorter spurts of exercise, such as 10 minutes of walking spaced throughout the day, offer benefits too. Additionally, you can try office exercises.

Get up earlier. If your days are packed and the evening hours are just as hectic, get up 30 minutes earlier twice a week to exercise. Once you've adjusted to early-morning workouts, add another day or two to the routine.

Drive less, walk more. Park in the back row of the parking lot or a few blocks away and walk to your destination.

Revamp your rituals. Your weekly Saturday matinee with the kids or best friend could be reborn as your weekly Saturday bike ride, rock-climbing lesson or trip to the pool.

"I think exercise is boring."

It's natural to grow weary of a repetitive workout day after day, especially when you're doing it alone. But exercise doesn't have to be boring. Choose activities you enjoy. You'll be more likely to stay interested. Remember, anything that gets you moving counts.

Vary the routine. Rotate among several activities—such as walking, swimming and cycling—to keep you on your toes while conditioning different muscle groups.

Join forces. Exercise with friends, relatives, neighbors or coworkers. You'll enjoy the camaraderie and the encouragement of the group.

Explore new options. Learn new skills while getting a workout. Check out exercise classes or sports leagues at a recreation center or health club.

"I'm self-conscious about how I look when exercising."

Don't get down on yourself! Remind yourself what a great favor you're doing for your health, or focus on how much stronger you feel after a workout. Avoid the crowd. If you're uncomfortable exercising around others, go solo at first. Try an exercise video or an activity-oriented video game. Or consider investing in a stationary bicycle, treadmill, stair-climbing machine or other piece of home exercise equipment.

Focus on the future. Praise yourself for making a commitment to your health. And remember that as you become fitter and more comfortable exercising, your self-confidence is likely to improve as well.

"I'm too tired to exercise after work."

No energy to exercise? Without exercise, you'll have no energy. It's a vicious cycle. But breaking the cycle with physical activity is one of the best gifts you can give yourself. Try a morning dose of exercise. Remember the suggestion to get up 30 minutes earlier to exercise? Hop on the treadmill or stationary bicycle while you listen to the radio or watch the morning news. Or step outside for a brisk walk.

Make lunchtime count. Keep a pair of walking shoes at your desk, and take a brisk walk during your lunch break.

Be prepared. Make sure you have comfortable shoes and loose-fitting clothes for exercising. Take them with you to the mall or when you travel.

"I'm too lazy to exercise."

If the mere thought of a morning jog makes you tired, try these thoughts on for size: Set realistic expectations. If your mental bar is too high, you might give up without even trying. Start with a walk around the block. Don't give up if you feel worn out. Take another walk around the block tomorrow. Keep it up, and eventually you'll no longer feel worn out.

Work with your nature, not against it. Plan physical activity for times of the day when you tend to feel more energetic—or at least not quite so lazy.

Schedule exercise as you would schedule an important appointment. Block off times for physical activity, and make sure your friends and family are aware of your commitment. Ask for their encouragement and support. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Mayo clinic minute: breaking down calories

You see them counted on food labels and now on restaurant menus. But do you know what calories are?

Anya Guy, a Mayo Clinic dietitian, says calories are units of energy. And even though they are all technically the same, the effect they have on your body can differ depending on what kinds of food you eat.

"A calorie is a unit of energy," Guy says. "It is calculated for various types of foods, more so in the categories of calories from carbohydrates, protein and fat."

She says calories are all technically the same.

"In the laws of science … all calories are created equal, but our body breaks down carbohydrates, protein and fat very differently," she says.

And, while 1,000 calories from a fast food burger and fries are technically the same as 1,000 calories from lean meats, fruits and vegetables, Guy says there are other health implications you should consider when picking which foods to eat.

"I recommend the majority of your calories come from unprocessed or minimally processed whole foods, since the quality of your calories can impact your weight and your overall health," Guy says.

She says everyone's calorie requirements are different. But getting 2,000 calories a day from lean chicken, whole grains, fruits and vegetables is going to keep you healthier than getting 2,000 calories a day from processed foods that are high in sugar and saturated fats. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

PERSONAL TRAINER

Not the same old crunches

Crunches – the modern, safer version of the classic sit-up – can be done lots of ways to work the abdominal muscles.

Circle crunch

Raise upper body into a crunch, circle slowly to the left, then lie back

Repeat, doing circle in other direction

Raised-hips crunch

Lift buttocks from floor...

... then raise head, neck and shoulders

Side double crunch

Balance on right buttock and do a crunch

Arms straight, palms up

Alternate between right and left buttocks

Source: Women's Health Training Guide 2007

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Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Princess Eugenie weds her beau at Windsor Castle

WINDSOR, England (AP)—Britain's Princess Eugenie married tequila brand ambassador Jack Brooksbank in a star-studded royal wedding Friday at St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle.

It was the second wedding extravaganza of the year for the royal family, which seems to be riding a wave of popularity as the younger generation comes to the fore and the widely-respected Queen Elizabeth II cuts back slightly on her public appearances.

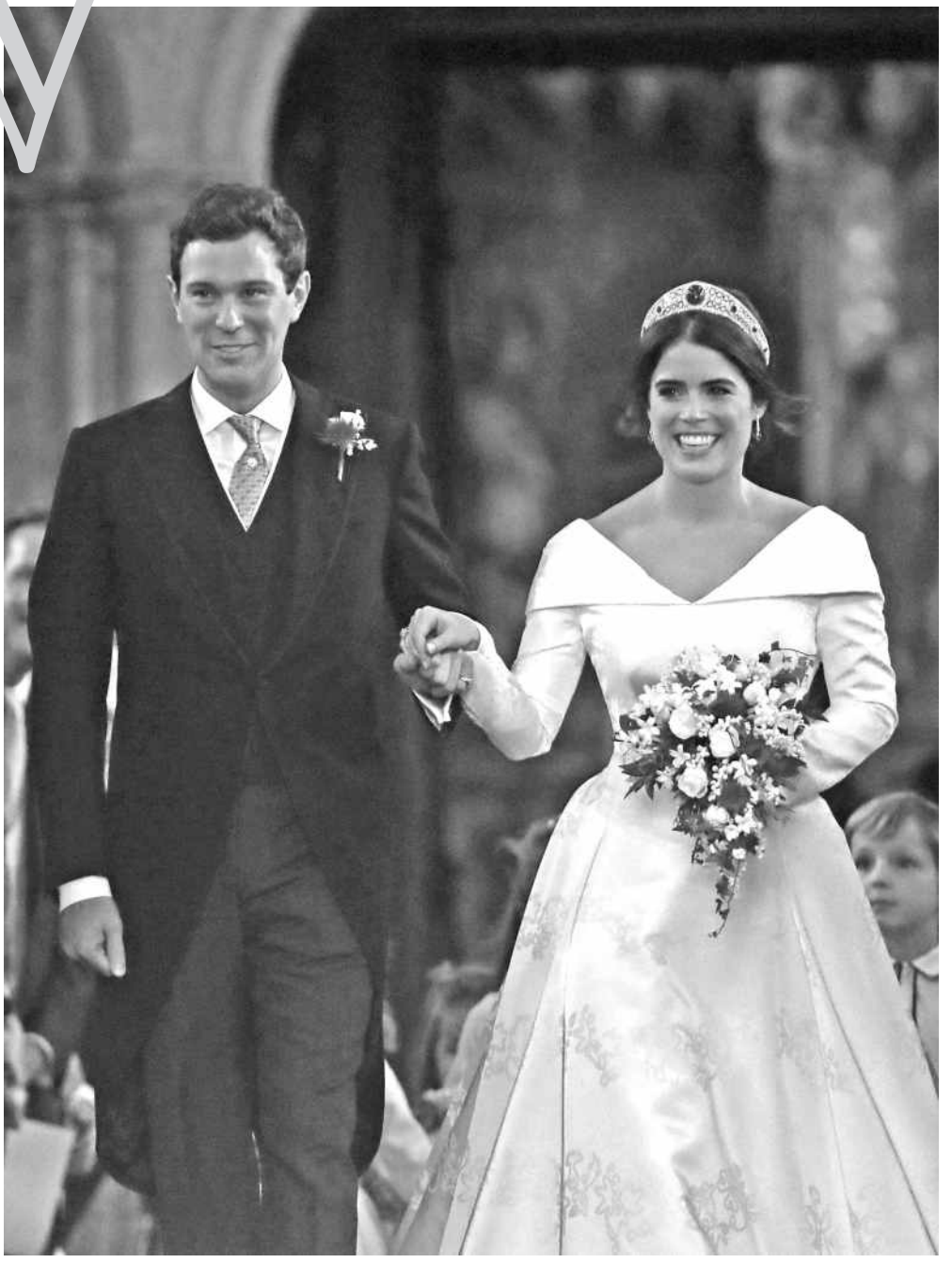
The 28-year-old bride, the queen's granddaughter, is ninth in line to the British throne. She wore a long-sleeved gown with a fitted top, a peplum and a long train by British-based designers Peter Pilotto and Christopher De Vos and a diamond-and-emerald tiara loaned to her by the queen.

The 92-year-old queen and her husband, Prince Philip, attended the wedding, along with other senior royals, including Prince Charles; Prince William and his wife Kate, the duchess of Cambridge; and Prince Harry with Meghan, the duchess of Sussex.

There had been doubts about whether the 97-year-old Philip would be well enough to attend, but he seemed to be in good form during a rare public appearance. Prince Charles' wife, Camilla, missed the wedding because of other commitments.

Eugenie's sister, Princess Beatrice, served as maid of honor—she read a selection from F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" during the service.

They are the daughters of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, who are divorced but enjoy an amicable relationship.



Princess Eugenie of York and Jack Brooksbank after their wedding ceremony at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, near London, England, Friday Oct. 12, 2018. AP

The A-list guests included Hollywood stars Demi Moore and Liv Tyler, fashion luminaries Kate Moss, Cara Delevingne and Naomi Campbell and pop singer Robbie Williams, whose daughter was a bridesmaid.

Eugenie's dress was cut in a deep V in the front and the back, a feature requested by the bride that revealed a vertical scar from her surgery at age 12 to correct scoliosis. She has said previously it's important for people to show their scars.

Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, wore a fuchsia dress by Alexander McQueen and a hat by Philip Treacy—Britain's premier milliner. Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, wore a navy dress and coat by Givenchy.

There were occasional blue skies on a generally cloudy, gusty day as the royal standard flew atop the Windsor Castle complex, indicating the queen was in residence. The strong winds forced many women to hold on to their elaborate hats as they approached the chapel.

Alec Baldwin vows to break the talk show model by going deep

NEW YORK (AP) — When his new talk show premieres Sunday night, don't expect Alec Baldwin to get overly political. The 60-year old actor plans to leave that on the set of "Saturday Night Live" with his occasional impersonations of President Donald Trump.

"The Trump thing is just silly. Nothing we do on 'SNL' about Trump is going to change anybody's mind about anything," Baldwin said. "There are people in Washington going, 'That Alec Baldwin, I hate him'... and there are others that say, 'Thank you, for helping us process this.'"

That's why he doesn't see an upside to being overly political on the new "The Alec Baldwin Show" on ABC at 10 p.m. The show features candid one-on-one conversations with celebrities and cultural icons.

"If you have a very muscular political opinion, it has its consequences. I'm not afraid of that, and thankfully I have other venues to exercise that. But this is not about that at all," Baldwin said.

His guests are another story. The talk show debuts with the politically outspoken Robert De Niro this Sunday. The hour show will feature two interviews, with Taraji P. Henson as the other guest.

Baldwin plans to pick up where "Here's the Thing" — his podcast for WNYC — left off, employing his unfiltered, provocative interview style. Baldwin said the long-form interview format allows him to take a "deep dive" into the issues with each subject. Plus, staying in one place works great for his family life.

"It became harder and harder as I got older and traveling, I've got little kids and I don't want to travel," Baldwin said.

He also wanted to bring a fresh perspective to the talk-show format after being on the other side of couch for so long. While promoting different projects along the way, Baldwin recalled the limitations of being interviewed at junkets and talk-show spots. It's something he calls short and "very choreographed."

"There wasn't a spontaneous breath to draw. They've worked out all the questions in advance. What you say is kind of a little script that they've drafted," Baldwin said.

But he also found it hard to trust the interviewer in such a short time, so he understands the reasons many public figures need to "play it safe."

Kanye West, in 'MAGA' hat, delivers surreal Oval Office show

WASHINGTON (AP)—Live from the Oval Office, it's Kanye West with a jaw-dropping performance.

The rapper didn't rap. But, seated across from President Donald Trump at the Resolute Desk, the musician delivered a rambling, multipart monologue Thursday that touched on social issues, hydrogen planes, mental health, endorsement deals, politics and oh so much more.

Seizing the spotlight from the typically center-stage president, West dropped the F-word, floated policy proposals — and went in for a hug.

"They tried to scare me to not wear this hat," West said of his red "Make America Great Again" cap. But, he said, "This hat, it gives me power in a way."

"You made a Superman cape for me," he told Trump.

It was a surreal scene even by the standards of a nonconventional White House. The unlikely allies spoke to reporters before a closed-door lunch that had been billed as a forum to discuss policy issues including manufacturing, gangs, prison reform and violence in Chicago, where West grew up. Spectators at the show included Trump's son-in-law and top adviser, Jared Kushner, former NFL star Jim Brown, the attorney for a gang leader serving time in federal prison, and a gaggle of reporters.

Promoter of failed Fyre Festival gets 6 years in prison

NEW YORK (AP) — The creator of the Fyre Festival, a highly publicized and famously failed music bash in the Bahamas, was ordered Thursday to spend six years in prison by a judge who called him a "serial fraudster."

Billy McFarland, 26, was sentenced Thursday in federal court in Manhattan. He had admitted to defrauding investors of $26 million in the 2017 Fyre Festival and over $100,000 in a fraudulent ticket-selling scheme after his arrest in the scam.

"The defendant is a serial fraudster," Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald said. The Fyre Festival was "not a good idea gone bad" as McFarland sometimes has wanted to portray it, she said.

"Mr. McFarland is a fraudster and not simply a misguided young man," Buchwald said. "Bad intent was longstanding."

McFarland fraudulently operated a business from 2013 to 2017 that staged private events, exaggerating its potential and accomplishments to 20 investors, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Kristy Jean Greenberg.

He used false claims about that company as part of a sales pitch to entice 80 investors to pour $24 million into the Fyre Festival, she said. A separate investment of $2 million came from another entity.

The prosecutor said he then diverted $13 million to his private financial accounts to fuel an "extravagant lifestyle" that included moving from an $8,000-a-month Manhattan apartment into a $21,000-a-month penthouse. She said he rode luxury vehicles, took frequent trips and flew in private planes.

"The motivation here was greed, a desire to have a flashy lifestyle," Greenberg said.

Getting better: Beatles' 'Sgt. Pepper' named top album in UK

LONDON (AP)—The Beatles' psychedelic masterwork "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" has been named the most popular British album in history.

The Official Charts Company said Saturday that the band's 1967 classic is Britain's favorite album based on physical sales, downloads and streams in the U.K.

The album found the four mates from Liverpool at their most experimental and inventive and includes favorites like "With a Little Help from My Friends" and "A Day in the Life."

The band by then had stopped touring and was focusing its effort on studio work under the guidance of producer George Martin.

The album came ahead of Adele's "21," which finished second, and the 1995 Oasis album "(What's the Story) Morning Glory?"

Berlin by Stormy: Trump accuser opens German erotica show

AP

Adult film actress Stormy Daniels, 3rd left, attends the opening of the adult entertainment fair 'Venus' in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018.

BERLIN (AP) — Stormy Daniels, the adult film star who says she had sex with Donald Trump and was paid by the U.S. president's lawyer to keep quiet, is taking her show on the road.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, drew a crowd Thursday as she opened an erotic trade show in the German capital.

Looking overdressed in a long-sleeved dress compared with the bikini-clad German performers flanking her, Daniels quickly snipped a red ribbon to open the Venus trade show before retreating off stage without comment.

The local stars seemed somewhat rankled as photographers called for them to get out of the picture and Daniels flashed smiles to the crowd.

Daniels has said she had sex with Trump in 2006 when he was married, which Trump has denied.

AP Exclusive: Roberta Flack ready to sing again

NEW YORK (AP)—Once a week, Roberta Flack gives a musical performance for an exclusive group.

The lucky audience consists of a musical director, who works with the legend to keep her instrument—her voice—in top form. It would be an important exercise for any singer, but even more critical given that the 81-year-old singer had a stroke more than two years ago and suffered a collapse that led to a brief hospitalization earlier this year.

"I know what it is to go over the same songs over and over again, and to try to make them perfect. It's interesting and it's hard and it's difficult at the same time," Flack said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press this week. "You have to stay on top of things."

The public will get a chance to hear the result of those musical tuneups, courtesy of the Jazz Foundation of America, when it honors her Saturday.

"I am very excited about the event, to sing, and to perform. I'm just hoping that I can find the right song," said Flack, whose long list of hits include "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," ''Killing Me Softly with His Song" and "Feel Like Makin' Love."

The Jazz Foundation of America provides assistance of all types to musicians who have suffered setbacks, whether they're medical, financial or both. It was set to give Flack its lifetime achievement award at the Apollo Theater at a concert featuring Cassandra Wilson, Alabama Shakes lead singer Brittany Howard, Nona Hendryx and more. But Flack collapsed backstage and was rushed to the hospital. The concert went on without her.

On Saturday, the foundation holds its annual loft party, where they will honor Flack again, and Flack is expected to sing—her first public performance in at least a year. Participants include another music legend and friend, Valerie Simpson, along with Macy Gray.

"I'm very excited that they want to give me an award, and I'm excited about the cause of the award, and the whole thing. I'm hyped about it," Flack said.

Flack spoke to the AP at her assisted living facility in Manhattan. Sitting in a wheelchair and looking glamorous with curly hair cascading down her shoulders, the Grammy winner was bright-eyed and articulate during a nearly 30-minute conversation, though she occasionally relied on her manager to provide her with information about the weekend event, to also feature actors Rosie Perez and Michael Imperioli.

When asked if she'd sing one of her old hits, she quickly retorted: "There's no such thing as an old hit," preferring the term "classic" instead.

"I could sing any number of songs that I've recorded through the years, easily, I could sing them, but I'm going to pick those songs that move me," Flack said. "Now that's hard to do. To be moved, to be moved constantly by your own songs. You need it to be in tune with them, and I don't mean in tune musically, but I mean in tune with the lyrics of the songs, with the words of the songs, and with the meaning. You need to be in tune with all of that, and that takes a little bit of doing."

Her work with the musical director from the Jazz Foundation is part of that keeping in tune. Flack's connection to the group started years ago, when they enlisted her to perform at a benefit for the late folk great Odetta, who had fallen on hard times.

"Ten years ago, she came out to help us when we were helping Odetta, who was one of her idols," said Wendy Oxenhorn, the foundation's executive director. "Roberta has been all of our idols. And now, since her stroke, we've been able to give back and help her, which is so beautiful."

Oxenhorn said the foundation is glad it has another opportunity to honor Flack.

"We didn't want her to miss this because she is loved around the world, and she's kept so many of us going through our hard times with her music, and she's been such an icon and pioneer in her genre," she said. "We want her to know how loved she is."

Flack in turn lauded the organization, and got emotional when speaking to Oxenhorn, who was present for the interview.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart," the singer said. "It seems like we get a lot of musicians who don't need help, who do it themselves or do it on their own, and that's not true, that's not true, they need a lot of help. I'm happy to help."

As for Saturday's performance, Flack said she would likely be excited and nervous, and "all those good things that happen before you go on stage."

She modestly dismissed expectations when a reporter suggested the night would be amazing: "It's going to be real funky and nice. We're going to make it a party."

Military husband returns home only to ship out with his mom

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "John," recently returned from his fourth Middle East tour after having been gone for a year. As soon as he got back, his mother invited him and his two sisters on a vacation cruise for a week. He said yes, and they'll be leaving in a couple of weeks. The downside is—no spouses allowed.

John and I are in our mid-40s. We have been married 25 years. I feel slighted, left out and, frankly, disrespected. I'm not sure how to bring this up to him or to his mom. I don't want to cause my husband, who is currently going through a difficult reintegration process, any stress. And I don't want to cause drama with his mother, who will regard my speaking up as an offense to her gesture for her children. Please help. Do I just keep my hurting mouth shut?

HURTING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR HURTING: Because your husband is having a difficult time reintegrating, I do think you should keep your mouth closed. The reason you and the other spouses weren't invited may have been the cost involved. If it wasn't, then Mama may have wanted her "brood" around her and no one else.

You say you and your husband have been married 25 years. That would make you a military wife. By definition, military wives are resilient and independent. If you feel you will be at loose ends while your husband is with his mother and siblings, I suggest you and the other "excluded spouses" plan some activities together to pass the time. If you all like each other, you could have a ball.

Later, when the time is right, you and your husband could plan a private getaway just for the two of you.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for almost a year to an amazing man who surprised me with a stunning, large engagement ring. I'm a modest, humble person and often find myself hiding the ring because—although I love it—I don't like the attention it brings. My proud mother-in-law often brags about the ring to others. She recently started working at the same place I do and has been showing off the ring (on my finger) to my coworkers. It makes me very uncomfortable because I like to stay as professional as possible.

My mother-in-law is so sweet that I don't want to hurt her feelings. I also don't want to stop wearing my ring to work because it is so special to me. What do I do?

SPARKLES PLENTY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SPARKLES PLENTY: It's a little late to do anything now because most of your co-workers have probably seen your ring. What you should have done when your mother-in-law first drew attention to it was take her aside and ask her privately to stop because you are a humble person and also concerned it might incite jealousy.

DEAR ABBY: Is there such thing as love at first sight?

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

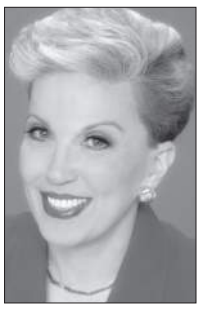
DEAR PENNY: There is such a thing as strong mutual attraction at first sight. But love doesn't happen in an instant. Love requires actually getting to know someone.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

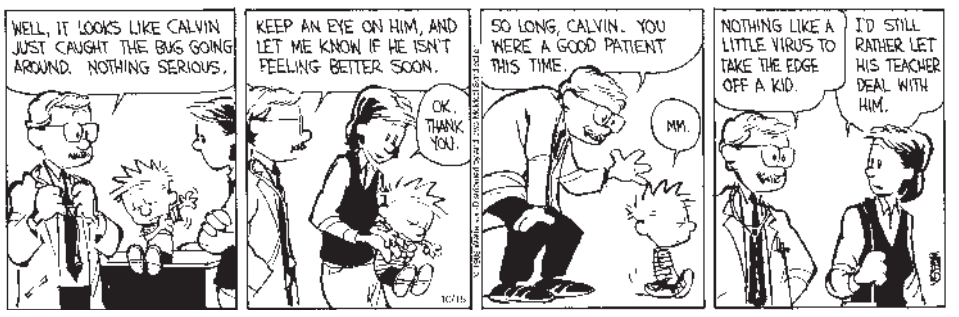


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE CALVIN JUST CAUGHT THE BUG GOING AROUND. NOTHING SERIOUS.
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, AND LET ME KNOW IF HE ISN'T FEELING BETTER SOON.
OK. THANK YOU.
SO LONG, CALVIN. YOU WERE A GOOD PATIENT THIS TIME.
MM.
NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE VIRUS TO TAKE THE EDGE OFF A KID.
I'D STILL RATHER LET HIS TEACHER DEAL WITH HIM.

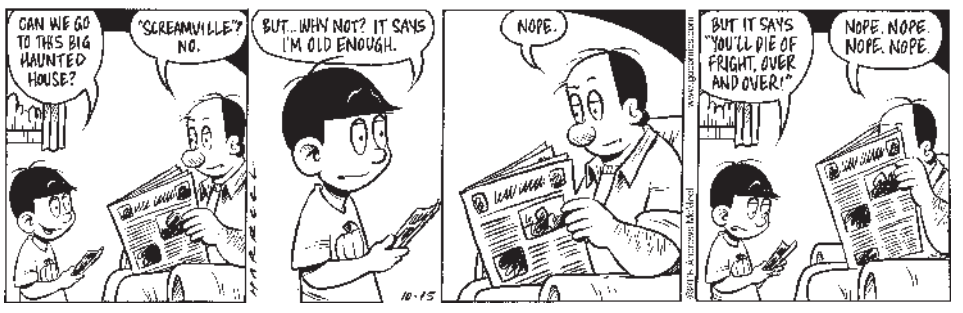
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I AM HERE. FEEL FREE TO SQUEAL WITH GLEE AND SHED TEARS OF HAPPINESS
YAWN!
I'LL COME BACK AFTER YOU'VE COMPOSED YOURSELF
JIM DAVIS 10-15

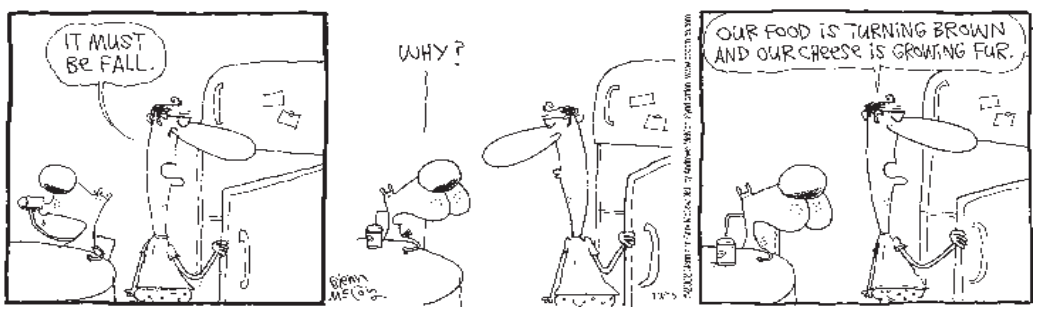
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN WE GO TO THIS BIG HAUNTED HOUSE?
"SCREAMVILLE"? NO.
BUT... WHY NOT? IT SAYS I'M OLD ENOUGH.
NOPE.
BUT IT SAYS "YOU'LL DIE OF FRIGHT, OVER AND OVER!"
NOPE. NOPE. NOPE. NOPE.
10-15

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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1 Business attire
5 Automobile
8 Earring site
12 Lacking confidence
14 "So be it"
15 Elsa's story
16 Gershwin's "The — Love"
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51 Scouting outing

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1 Bro or sis
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19 Lummoxes
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25 Weapons
26 Always
27 Sunrise direction
29 Some GIs
31 Airport screening org.
33 Wine evaluator
34 Bath sponge
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46 Tours season

Solution time: 26 mins.

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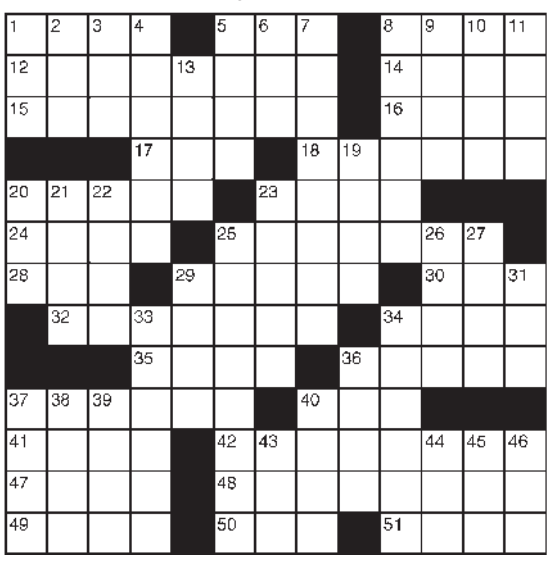
Last Friday's Answer 10-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vanessa Marcil, 50; Emeril Lagasse, 59; Sarah Ferguson, 59; Penny Marshall, 75.

Happy Birthday: Look at the possibilities. Refuse to let negativity slow you down. Concentrate on being proactive and doing whatever you can to make your surroundings conducive to productivity. Listen to those with experience, but don't succumb to pressure and forgo your plans and what you really want to do because of what others say or demand. Do your own thing. Your numbers are 3, 12, 22, 29, 38, 45, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stick to the people you know and trust. Being a team player will help you overcome any challenges that come your way. Change begins within, but a group effort adds strength and a better chance to reach your goal. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consider what you want and how to proceed. Don't let anger be your motivator. Follow through for the right reason; you will get the most out of the changes you make. Personal improvements and romance are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider what you know to be true and false. Look for compromise when dealing with people who are confused or inconsistent. Don't give anyone reason to interfere in your affairs. Focus on personal gain and improvement. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* A new or different approach when dealing with youngsters, seniors or anyone in between will help you get your way. It's how you go about getting others to see things your way that will make the difference. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pick up the pace and take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. Don't expect everyone to agree with you or to lend a helping hand. Avoid excessive behavior and unrealistic demands. Moderation is your best option. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take the plunge and forge ahead with confidence. You can bring about positive change and impress onlookers with your fortitude, intelligence and common sense. Personal growth will lead to options you hadn't considered in the past. Peace, love and romance are featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't wait for someone else to do things for you. Take the initiative and you'll get things done your way. A change to the way you live or your income will need to be handled carefully. Try doing things differently. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You need to get out more. Engage in events that offer knowledge, interaction and keep you current with the latest technology. Rub shoulders with people who share your interests. Put your energy into advancement, not anger. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep plugging away until your responsibilities are taken care of. If you linger too long over something that doesn't really matter, someone you need will withdraw the help that was offered. Set goals and keep a tight schedule. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* The personal and professional changes you make will lead to some interesting days ahead. Keep a close watch over how others perform, and learn from what you observe. Progress will be accomplished, and your reputation will get a boost. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Listen, observe and evaluate, but don't follow someone's lead based on hearsay or peer pressure. Times have changed, and you'll be led down a very different path if you aren't careful. Inconsistency and indulgence are best avoided. Trust in yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Line up your allies and prepare them for the plans you are trying to put into play. Don't fear taking a position of leadership or looking out for your best interests. Focus on making gains in all areas of life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, energetic and changeable. You are original and insightful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4			9			6	
5	1				2		7	9
		3		8	7	2		
	3	9						
6		7		5		1		2
						7	9	
		5	1	6		3		
1	2		3				8	7
	9			7			1	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	7	2	8	6	4	5	3
6	5	2	4	1	3	8	7	9
8	4	3	5	9	7	1	6	2
5	2	6	9	4	8	7	3	1
4	3	8	1	7	5	9	2	6
7	1	9	3	6	2	5	8	4
9	7	5	6	3	4	2	1	8
2	6	1	8	5	9	3	4	7
3	8	4	7	2	1	6	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LAKE FISHING Solution: 7 letters

R	W	L	I	F	T	E	Y	E	L	L	A	W	S	W
D	O	C	K	I	S	D	E	E	W	I	N	D	T	O
L	R	D	I	S	L	A	N	D	E	E	P	K	O	L
I	M	T	S	H	S	W	F	F	O	P	O	R	D	L
A	S	A	W	E	C	P	I	K	E	O	A	E	R	A
R	B	R	I	R	E	T	A	W	H	S	E	R	F	H
T	C	P	M	M	N	X	E	W	S	H	H	S	R	S
B	O	B	B	E	R	A	O	E	N	O	T	O	K	E
C	M	N	T	N	T	U	I	Ⓑ	B	R	P	E	H	E
A	P	S	K	H	T	C	Ⓐ	O	E	E	E	S	S	R
T	A	E	E	L	E	Ⓘ	O	A	I	L	D	N	I	T
F	S	R	E	P	Ⓣ	T	M	T	K	R	K	E	F	U
I	S	T	S	O	S	D	M	E	S	H	E	C	N	O
S	E	R	U	L	L	I	G	E	U	L	B	I	A	R
H	I	N	L	E	T	S	A	L	M	O	N	L	P	T

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Area, Bait, Bass, Bluegill, Boat, Bobber, Boots, Catfish, Compass, Deep, Depth, Dock, Drop-off, Fishermen, Freshwater, Hook, Inlet, Island, Knot, License, Lift, Lures, Mesh, Muskie, Nets, Outlet, Panfish, Pier, Pike, Pole, Rods, Rope, Salmon, Shallow, Shore, Spawn, Species, Stream, Swim, Tackle Box, Tarp, Trail, Trees, Trout, Wade, Walleye, Weather, Weeds, Wind, Worms

Last Friday's Answer: Cook-Off

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458**
THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC. Plaintiff, -v- DONALD CAMACHO, Defendant.	:	

TENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

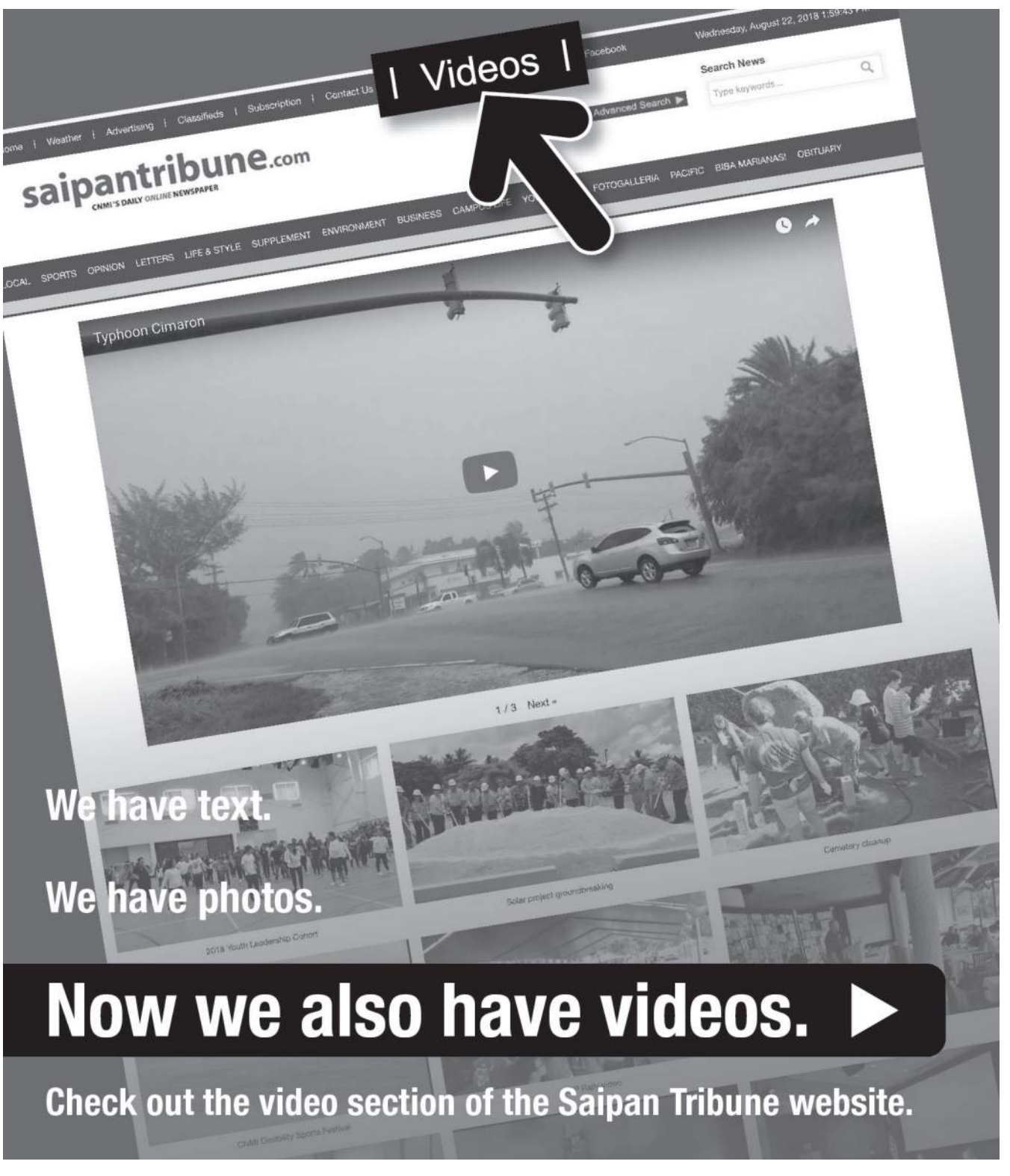
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which part of the Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 26, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 13th day of September, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



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Federer upset by Coris, misses finals duel vs Djokovic

SHANGHAI (AP) —Borna Coric upset defending champion Roger Federer to face Novak Djokovic in the Shanghai Masters final on Sunday.

Coric earned passage to the final by taking down the top-seeded Federer 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals on Saturday.

"It was one of the best matches of my life," Coric said.

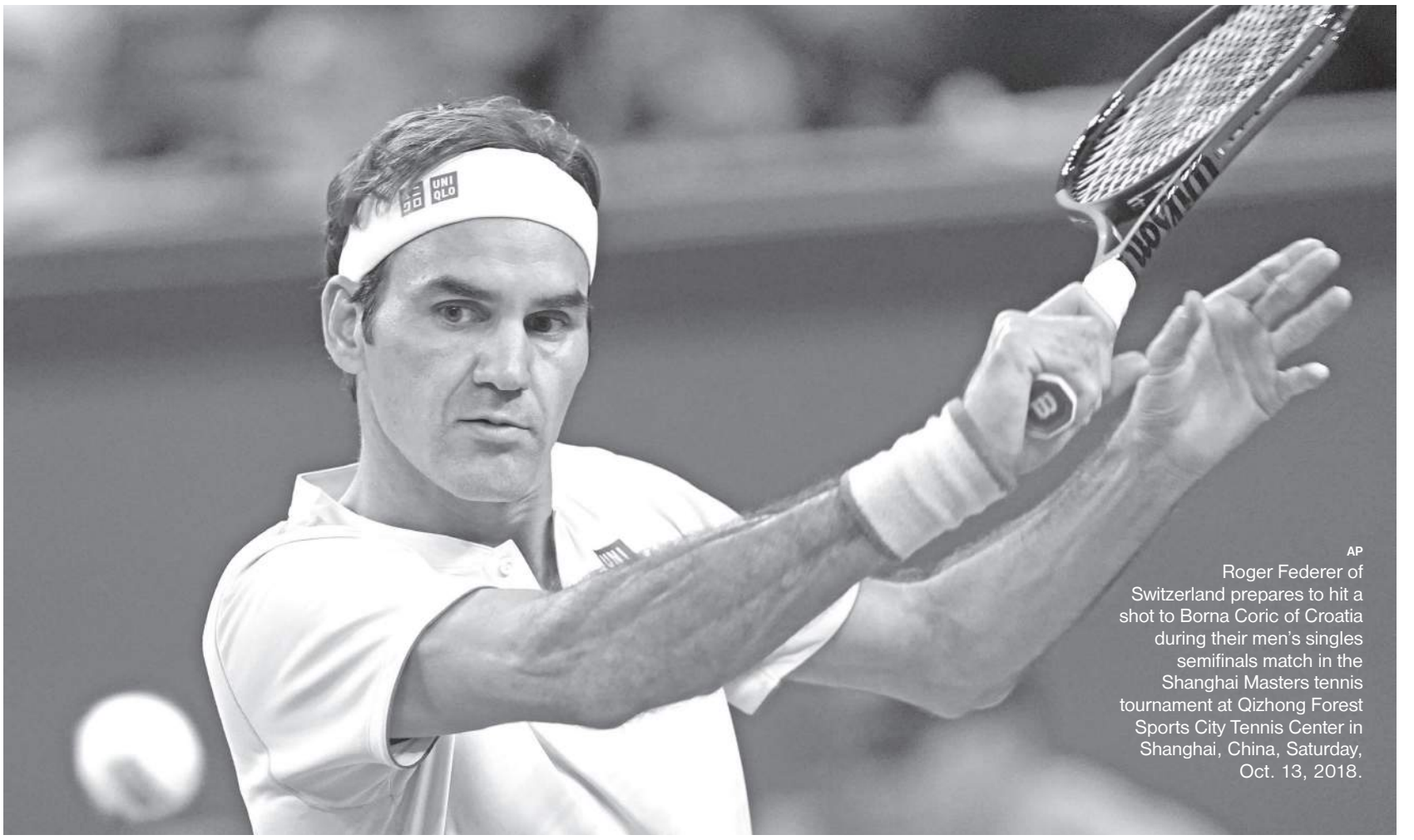
Coric said neck pain almost caused him to skip playing in Shanghai.

"Today, really, I just came on the court with absolutely no pressure. I basically didn't care, and that's why I played so good."

The Croatian gave himself a third career shot at Djokovic. In their previous meetings, Coric failed to take a set off of Djokovic.

The soon-to-be-No. 2-ranked Djokovic booked a final appointment after crushing No. 5 Alexander Zverev 6-2, 6-1.

Coric finished off Federer in style with the final two points an ace and a sizzling forehand crosscourt winner.



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland prepares to hit a shot to Borna Coric of Croatia during their men's singles semifinals match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018.

Coric didn't offer Federer a break point opportunity, while managing to break Federer's serve in the opening game of both sets. In all, Federer presented Coric with seven beak point possibilities.

"He had more punch on the ball. He served better," Federer said. "I got off to a bad start in both sets. That combination is plenty here in Shanghai with fast conditions."

Federer has won three titles this year—the Australian Open, Rotterdam, Stuttgart—but all of them were earned before the start of Wimbledon in July.

Federer was asked several times on Saturday about his schedule for the remainder of the year, as well as for next year. He said he couldn't offer any specifics but did offer a guarantee regarding 2019.

"I wish I could tell you all these answers, but I really don't know. But I will play tennis next year, yes," he said.

Coric, who is 2-2 against Federer, also beat the 20-time Grand Slam champion in their last outing at Halle in June.

"Against that kind of player, you need something to hold on to," he said. "I was holding on to that thought that I beat him the last time."

Djokovic's win over Zverev and Federer's demise guaranteed Djokovic will move up from No. 3 to No. 2 in the world rankings on Monday, which has him swapping positions with Federer, but still trailing Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic's serve has not been broken this week in 37 service games. He never offered Zverev a break point opportunity, and broke the German's serve on four of six offerings.

By the time Zverev was 6-2, 3-1 down, his emotions got the better of him after he hit a routine backhand into the net. He banged his racket on the court, then gave it another swipe before tossing the mangled implement into the crowd.

Djokovic posted only nine unforced errors to 24 for Zverev.

"I did everything I intended to do on my end," Djokovic said. "It's all working and it's been a couple of perfect matches."

Djokovic is targeting his 72nd career title here on Sunday. He has won all three of his previous finals in Shanghai.

Djokovic played his 1,000th career match against Zverev, and holds an impressive 827-173 win-loss record.

"I wouldn't be so dedicated to this sport if I didn't believe that I can achieve great heights," Djokovic said. "But you always have to kind of pinch yourself, particularly at this stage of my career, and be grateful, because I have had an awesome career so far."

US guards against overconfidence in World Cup qualifying

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Defender Becky Sauerbrunn said the memories of 2010 still drive her as the U.S. women's national team seeks to qualify for next year's World Cup in France.

The United States lost in the semifinals of that year's CONCACAF qualifying tournament, sending the team to a third-place finish and a two-legged playoff against Italy to secure a spot in the 2011 World Cup in Germany.

Sauerbrunn was on that team.

"For me, you just never know on any day. I think you see it in soccer all the time where the lesser team beats the greater team and it's the story and everyone loves it," she said. "So there are going to be a lot of people rooting against us, who want to see this kind of drama. Who want to see us face that. We don't want to face that."

Of course, the U.S. went on to advance to the finals of the 2011 World Cup but fell to Japan.

Currently the top-ranked team in the world, the United States plays Jamaica on Sunday night in the semifinals of the CONCACAF women's World Cup qualifying tournament.

With a win, the United States will secure a spot in next year's World Cup in France. The U.S. team in the defending champion of the sport's premier event, having won the final in 2015 against Japan in Canada.

Canada, ranked No. 5 in the world, faces Panama in the other semifinal Sunday at Toyota Stadium, home of Major League Soccer's FC Dallas.

The United States isn't leaving anything to chance. The team averaged six goals a game in its group stage. They've taken 114 shots, far more than the second-best team in the field, Canada (77).

In their final group-stage match, the U.S. women outshot injury-depleted Trinidad and Tobago 59-0 and had an 18-0 advantage in corner kicks.

"The players know and obviously we know that this game is crazy. Every thing we have to do is earn the right to be there. So I don't think they're over confident," coach Jill Ellis said. "I think there's a tremendous confidence in the group, but before our first game actually, Carli (Lloyd), I asked her to speak to the group, and she said to take nothing for granted."

All four teams could be impacted by rain forecast for Sunday in the area. Saturday's heavy downpours forced the U.S. team to practice indoors at the Dallas Cowboys' team facilities.

"I think even if it is poor weather we can determine the tempo of the game, especially if we decide to go more direct. I think we can make it fast as we want or slow as we want," Sauerbrunn said. "For us I think we thrive at keeping a higher tempo and being relentless in the attack, and not letting teams breathe and get into their big attacking shape. So that's something I think we'll consistently carry through, no matter the weather."

The top three finishers in the CONCACAF Women's Championship will represent the region in France, so the winners of both semifinals will earn a berth.

The finals and the third-place game are set for Wednesday in Frisco. The fourth-place finisher will face Argentina in a playoff for a spot in France.

Jamaica, ranked No. 64th in the world, is vying to become the first Caribbean nation to go to a World Cup.

Woods remains 2019 Masters favorite as his odds improve

LAS VEGAS— Tiger Woods was already the betting favorite to win the 2019 Masters. Now, his odds to win have gotten better.

Woods went from a 10-to-1 favorite to slip on the green jacket next April at Augusta National to most recently a 9-to-1 favorite, according to the Westgate Las Vegas Superbook.

The 14-time major winner has won four Masters, most recently in 2005. He won the Tour Championship last month for his first PGA Tour victory since 2013.

Jordan Spieth is next at 10-1 while Dustin Johnson is 12-1. Rory McIlroy is listed at 14-1 along with Justin Thomas. Defending champion Patrick Reed is 30-1.

Bryson DeChambeau's odds have improved the most since betting opened on Aug. 12, going from 60-1 to 30-1.

Meanwhile, Justin Thomas came in support of Ryder Cup Captain Jim Furyk in the latest development of a multi-tiered drama that has hung over Team USA since its drubbing in France.

Thomas said that he knew about the team pairings well ahead of the event, countering remarks made by Patrick Reed.

"That was something obviously that had been talked about in advance, but all I was worried about was that I knew I was going to play with Jordan and we wanted to take care of our match," Thomas told reporters prior to the CIMB Classic in Malaysia.

This drama began when Patrick Reed said he was "blindsided" by being grouped with Tiger Woods rather than Jordan Spieth at the Ryder Cup, adding that the problem was "Jordan not wanting to play with me." Furyk responded by saying all concerned had been briefed about pairings well ahead of time and the pairings were 100 percent his call.

The 2017 PGA Tour Player of the Year, Thomas has won the CIMB Classic twice in the past three years. He grabbed his first PGA Tour win there in 2015.

The course he faces at TPC Kuala Lumpur is different this year, however, due to alterations in the grass on the greens and fairways.

"I would like to still think that I have a good chance. It is a different, but it's the same golf course. It's just the grass, the fairways are different, the conditions are different," Thomas said.

Astros win wild Game 1; Cora ejected

BOSTON (AP) — Justin Verlander outlasted an uncharacteristically wild Chris Sale, overcoming control problems of his own to give Houston six innings of two-hit ball on Saturday night and lead the Astros over the Boston Red Sox 7-2 in the AL Championship Series opener.

On a 48-degree night that left both aces struggling to find the plate — and rookie Red Sox manager Alex Cora struggling to control his temper — Carlos Correa fisted a single into left field to break a sixth-inning tie and give the defending World Series champions their fifth straight postseason victory.

Josh Reddick hit a solo homer leading off the ninth, and Yuli Gurriel curled a three-run shot into the front row beyond the Pesky Pole to clinch it.

Boston pitchers walked 10 and hit three batters, and shaky defense by third baseman Eduardo Nunez contributed to Houston's first three runs.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Sunday night, with Boston left-hander David Price trying to end his postseason skid against Astros righty Gerrit Cole. Cora has expressed confidence in Price, a Cy Young Award winner who is 0-9 in 10 career postseason starts, and the 108-win Red Sox will need him to be better than Sale was in the opener.

In a rematch of last year's Division Series opener, when the Astros hit consecutive first-inning homers and pounded Sale for seven runs in all, Verlander improved to 13-2 in the AL playoffs. Houston only got one hit off of Sale, but he loaded the bases with two outs in the second on two walks and a hit batter before reigning World Series MVP George Springer singled in two runs past the glove of Eduardo Nunez, who slipped as he stretched for the ball.

The Red Sox awakened the shivering, sold-out Fenway crowd in the fifth with Steve Pearce's single—just their second in the game—and two walks before Verlander walked a third batter in a row, forcing in a run.

Mookie Betts hit a hard grounder and third baseman Alex Bregman threw home for the force and the second out. With Jackie Bradley Jr. dancing on third base, Verlander put a 1-2 curveball in the dirt and past catcher Martin Maldonado, allowing the runners to advance and tying the game 2-2.

Andrew Benintendi worked the count full before looking at a 3-2 pitch that appeared to catch the edge of the zone for the third out. Benintendi slammed down his helmet and bat down and jawed with plate umpire James Hoye before Red Sox coaches ran in to get between them.

Cora continued the argument and was ejected; he handed over his lineup card to bench coach Ron Roenicke and headed down the tunnel.

Houston took advantage of another hit batter in the sixth—this one by reliever Joe Kelly—and Nunez dropping the ball for an error as he started to throw after fielding Gurriel's grounder. Correa's RBI single on a 100 mph from Kelly, who took the loss, put the Astros ahead 3-2.

Reddick and Gurriel homered off Brandon Workman.

AP

Houston Astros center fielder George Springer, left, and shortstop Carlos Correa celebrate their win against the Boston Red Sox in Game 1 of a baseball American League Championship Series on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, in Boston. The Astros won, 7-2.

Verlander was charged with two runs on two hits and four walks, striking out six. He matched Don Larsen from 1955-57 as the only pitchers to allow nine hits over a span of four-postseason starts, according to STATS.

Sale, who took the mound without long sleeves on the chilly night, left after the fourth inning—his only 1-2-3 inning of the game—having thrown 86 pitches. He gave up two runs on one hit, four walks and a hit batter, and his fastball was down about 3 mph from his previous start.

Boston catcher Christian Vazquez hit second-base umpire Joe West on his chest with a throw when Jake Marisnick stole second in the eighth.

Price, 16-7 in this year's regular season, has two postseason wins in relief in his career. Cora insisted that he had faith in Price, and he told the 2012 AL Cy Young winner as much after the Red Sox eliminated the Yankees in the previous round.

"Alex told me before we even got off the field that night" that he would get another start, Price said before the game. "So for him to tell me before we even took our jerseys off to put on our postseason shirts that we get when we win, that was special."

Cole was 15-5 with a 2.88 ERA in the regular season.

Turner homers as Dodgers beat Brewers in Game 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Justin Turner and the Los Angeles Dodgers know all about performing in the postseason.

Backed into a tough spot Saturday, the red-headed slugger delivered once again.

Shut down for most of the afternoon, Los Angeles staged another late rally and Turner hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to lift the Dodgers over the Milwaukee Brewers for a 4-3 victory that evened the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

The high-powered Dodgers had two measly singles off Wade Miley before breaking through against one of baseball's best bullpens. After forcing the Brewers to use six relievers in Milwaukee's 6-5 victory Friday night, the NL West champions put that extended look to good use in Game 2, especially against faltering All-Star Jeremy Jeffress.

"As long as we have outs left, we know we're in the game," Turner said.

Milwaukee wasted a terrific performance by Miley in its first loss in three weeks, ending a 12-game winning streak that produced free burgers for its fans as part of a promotion by a local restaurant chain. Orlando Arcia and Travis Shaw homered, and Lorenzo Cain robbed David Freese of a two-run drive with a leaping grab over the wall in center.

Miley pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his second career playoff start and had two hits in his first multihit game since 2014.

"We were in really good shape with the effort that Wade gave us," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "He pitched beautifully."

The best-of-seven series moves to Dodger Stadium for Game 3 on Monday night. Walker Buehler pitches for Los Angeles and Jhoulys Chacin gets the ball for Milwaukee.

Miley handed a 2-0 lead over to his bullpen and Shaw tacked on a solo drive in the sixth , delighting a yellow towel-waving crowd of 43,905 at Miller Park. But that was the last run for the Brewers, and the Dodgers finished off their rally this time around after nearly taking Game 1.

Cody Bellinger got Los Angeles on the board with an RBI single in the seventh, chasing Corbin Burnes and stopping an 0-for-15 slide in the playoffs that landed him on the bench at the start of the game. Austin Barnes forced in another run with a bases-loaded walk off Jeffress, but the right-hander escaped when pinch-hitter Yasmani Grandal bounced into a double play.

The Dodgers went right back to work in the eighth. Chris Taylor reached on a leadoff single before Turner hit a long drive to left off Jeffress, admiring the ball with his bat pointed toward the sky before rounding the bases and participating in several different celebrations with his giddy teammates on his way to the dugout.

Turner bounced back after striking out a career-worst four times in Game 1.

"It felt good," Turner said. "I knew it was a homer, and it's cool to run around the bases and see all your teammates going crazy, jumping up and down waiting for you."

Jeffress also struggled in Game 1, allowing two hits while only recording one out. He was charged with two runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings in three appearances in the Division Series against Colorado, including a blown save in the opener.

"It's intense baseball games, man," Jeffress said. "They're going to be like this for the rest of the postseason. We're going to battle, they're going to battle. Just be ready."

Los Angeles has scored eight runs against Milwaukee's bullpen, all in the seventh inning or later.

"The more you face the relievers, the easier it's going to get," Bellinger said.

It was Turner's seventh career playoff homer. He was co-MVP of the NLCS last year with Taylor when Los Angeles made it to the World Series for the first time since 1988.

The Dodgers are making their sixth straight appearance in the playoffs while the upstart Brewers are in the postseason for the first time since 2011. That advantage in experience seemed to pay off—especially when Turner came up with the big blow.

"He personifies everything that I believe in as a baseball player, as a professional. ... He's the glue for our club," manager Dave Roberts said.

Save for Yasiel Puig snapping his bat over his leg after striking out swinging with the bases loaded in the seventh, Los Angeles stayed steady as Milwaukee tried to hold on. Pedro Baez got four outs for the win, and Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for the save. Jansen broke NL MVP-favorite Christian Yelich's bat for a groundout with a runner on second for the final out.

Former major league slugger Prince Fielder threw out a ceremonial first pitch. Fielder said Counsell helped him a lot when they played together in Milwaukee.

"There was one time I was thinking about bunting and he told me if I bunt, he'll punch me in the face," a chuckling Fielder said.

MJD snaps Islander's winning streak

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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MJD Warriors turned the tables on Islander Rent A Car in the second half for an 82-74 victory in the lone game played in the IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Mixed Masters Brotherhood Basketball League last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

MJD was the underdog in this matchup, as it held a 2-1 record before facing Islander, which then was unbeaten in three games. Islander boosted its bid for a fourth straight victory, as majority of the first half was in its favor after leading by as much as 10 points in the second quarter before going into the halftime break with a 43-39 advantage.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
MJD Warriors' Jaymark De Guzman takes his time at the foul line during their game against Islander Rent A Car in the IT&E Emon Lodge caging last Saturday at the Koberville Gymnasium.

However, MJD shifted gears in the second half, grabbing the lead over Islander at the halfway mark of the third quarter, 64-51. After leapfrogging Islander, MJD never looked back, as its lead ballooned to as much as 19 points behind a flurry of three pointers and baskets off fast-break plays.

"Once we start with our defense, we get our offense going. It doesn't matter who scores—this whole team contributed," Jack Aranda commented after the game.

MJD's second half run was led by the quartet of Aranda, Jun Tabora, Jaymark De Guzman, and Alex Ocampo, as they finished with 19, 18, 16, and 10 points, respectively. De Guzman had a highlight shot in the first half, as he drilled a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, while Aranda scored 12 points in the pivotal third quarter.

While Islander fought back to cut MJD's lead down to just 4 points with under a minute remaining in the final frame, the Warriors stiff-armed Islander's rally with great team defense and timely baskets by Bobby Sampang and Tabora.

Getz Jandoc top-scored for Islander with his 19 points, while Elgene Mangali chipped in 17, and Rocyl Ritual had 11 on a losing effort.

Meanwhile, Pacific Islands Club Saipan got a free win against Kanoa Krushers, as the latter did not have enough players to face off the former. PIC now has a 3-1 record, while Kanoa dropped to a 1-2 mark.

MJD 82 — Aranda 19, Tabora 18, Ja, De Guzman 16, Ocampo 10, Mungcal 7, Jo. De Guzman 6, Sampang 6.

Islander 77 — Jandoc 19, Mangali 17, Ritual 11, Tabora 8, Guiang 7, Pangelinan 6, Saplan 4, Manabat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 39-43, 64-51, 82-74.

Unbeaten Chiefs, Mahomes await major test vs Pats

NEW ENGLAND (AP)— There can be no better measuring stick for the Chiefs and young quarterback Patrick Mahomes than what they face Sunday night.

Beat the Patriots in Foxborough and all that excitement in Kansas City might be validated.

Remember, though, that the Chiefs, with Alex Smith, went into Gillette Stadium and won the 2017 kickoff to the season. They went on an up-and-down ride the rest of the way, lost in the wild-card playoff round, while the Patriots straightened out and made the Super Bowl before losing to Philadelphia.

Mahomes, of course, has looked immune to any sort of high-stakes pressure in leading the Chiefs (5-0) to the top of the AFC. He embraces this challenge and trying to outdo Tom Brady.

"It is going to be a great opportunity," says Mahomes, who has a league-best 14 touchdown passes. "He is one of the greatest quarterbacks, if not the greatest to ever play. I am going against their defense, but as a team we are going to go in and try to compete. They are a good team in the AFC every single year. Just to compete against one of the best teams in the league is going to be an awesome opportunity."

How familiar is Mahomes with three-time league MVP Brady, whom he has never met?

"I definitely watched a good amount of him in college (at Texas Tech)," he says. "Coach (Kliff) Kingsbury actually played with Tom at one point. He liked to show me some things that he did where he was in the pocket, his pocket movements and things like that. I have definitely taken some things from him. He does it at such a high level, it's something you have to strive to be like."

New England (3-2) is striving to be, well, New England. After a 1-2 start, the Patriots appear to have gotten back on their usual winning path.

The weekend began with Philadelphia's 34-13 road victory over the New York Giants. Carson Wentz threw a season-high three touchdown passes for the Eagles (3-3). They beat the Giants (1-5) for the fourth straight time and seventh in eight games.

GCA

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berth following a sweep of Mt. Carmel School in the winner's bracket semis. The Lady Eagles also prevailed over Agape Christian School and Saipan Southern High School last Friday to advance to the semi-finals. The GCA-MCS battle for the first finals seat last Saturday ended at about 11am.

SIS, on the other hand, took the court after that and dueled Saipan Southern at the loser's bracket of the double-elimination round. SIS won over MHS in the first round of the playoffs, but fell to MCS to drop to the loser's bracket. The Lady Geckos returned at the MHS Gymnasium last Saturday and eliminated Rota and Saipan Southern to keep their finals hopes alive. The No. 3 seed SIS went on to march into the finals and arranged a title duel against GCA after pulling off an upset over No. 2 MCS in the loser's bracket semis.

"We knew SIS will beat MCS in the semis because they were really playing well in the playoffs, but we're ready for them. At the start of the finals, I was just a bit worried that my players will be over confident, knowing that we're undefeated in the playoffs. We also had a long break before the finals, so we may lose momentum, while SIS was upbeat after beating MCS. However, our players played steadier in the end, especially in the first set, as they kept their focus," GCA coach Cesar Libut said.

GCA tried to gain more cushion in the opening set, but the persistent SIS lurked behind the Lady Eagles with the last one at the 21-20 tally. The Lady Eagles were threatened, no thanks to a miscue among their three players, as after Woo tossed the ball, neither Phan nor Dilse went for the hit.

The Lady Geckos got the possession and Sally Lai unloaded a spike, but it hit the net, giving GCA the point. Another short shot from SIS moved GCA two points away from getting the first set, but the Lady Geckos retaliated as Lai tried anew and this time was successful, 21-23. Malika Miyawaki attempted to make it two in a row, but her tap backfired and GCA went on to close the first set when Lai's dink was blocked by the net.

In the second set, the winded SIS, which played its fourth match for the day with only a little over an hour to rest, served first and Maury Zon Tybaco's underhand fell short. The exhausted Lady Geckos went on to commit several services errors, while a fresher GCA crew started creating distance from its foe after the standoff midway in the second send, 13-all. The Lady Eagles won the next exchange, 9-2, with the last two points off SIS' errors and moved GCA closer to the crown, 22-15. The Lady Geckos then scored their last point on Malika Miyawaki's kill, but made another short shot and was called for three touches after a rally, allowing GCA to knock on the Promised Land's door, 24-16. Another exchanges of possession temporarily delayed GCA's celebration before Dacumos set up Phan for the title-winning shot.

"Jasmine was just an amazing all-around player. I am also proud of Tina and Miku for stepping up in the playoffs. We were down with four players, but Tina and Miku, who never played as starters in the regular season, took their place and helped their teammates," said Libut, who led GCA to a 15-1 record in the entire season.

The Lady Eagles absorbed their lone loss at the hands of Mt. Carmel and Libut was thankful for that defeat.

"It was a wake-up call for us. Even though we are leading and are favored to win, we can't be over confident because other teams are getting better as the tournament progressed," he said.

GCA finished the regular season with an 11-1 record to get the top seeding in the playoffs and was followed by MCS (10-2), SIS (8-4), SSHS (7-5) MHS (4-6), Kagman (3-9), and Agape (0-12). Tinian and Rota competed in the playoffs over the weekend and were automatically seeded No. 5 and 6, respectively.

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delino widened the gap anew in the fourth canto for the 20-point winning margin.

De Guzman finished the game with 39 points, while Fidelino added 16, 8 of them came in the final period. McClain also had 16 points, while Mike and Joseph combined for 26.

Mortos paced Best Deal/RNV with his 33 points, while Rueda chipped in 29. However, they were the only ones who scored in twin digits for Best Deal/RNV.

D&Q/CTSI 79, Coca-Cola 66

D&Q/CTSI also earned a double-figure winning margin over Coca-Cola in the curtain-raiser.

D&Q/CTSI leaned on Gerald Rivera to beat Coca-Cola, as the wingman scored 29 points, including 14 in the last quarter. Shawn Fujihira backed him up, adding 13, while Nak Nakashima chipped in 11.

Edward Armia had 23 points to lead Coca-Cola, which played catch up right at the start of the game and failed to score more than 16 points in each of the first three periods.

Triple J 100, MJD 66

Triple J reached the century mark for the lopsided victory over MJD Construction.

Triple J exploded for 33 points in the first quarter to take control of the match and was never threatened throughout the game. Five players scored at least two baskets each for Triple J in the opening canto and the team continued to play a balance offense to hand MJD a beating.

Eman Cobacha led Triple J with his 23 points, while Aris Oris and Perry Inos Jr. registered 19 and 17, respectively.

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explosive start with 10 consecutive overhand serves, while Kean Pajarillaga and Camille Sablan also scored several points off their serves to help seal the win for the Eagles. ACS 1's Bobby Heng and David Zheng delivered several hard-hitting spikes, but their efforts were not enough to defeat GCA 1.

With last week's game in the books, both GCA and Agape 1 are now shifting their focus to the playoff round.

"We've been getting ready for the playoffs by practicing our serves and working on how we ought to play against the opposing teams. Personally, I'll be working on my serving and setting," said Magtalas, who leads GCA's set plays.

In other results last week, Saipan International School defeated Mt. Carmel School, 25-17, 11-25, 15-11 and Saipan Community School beat Seventh Day Adventist, 25-18, 25-19. GCA 2 and ACS 2's game last Thursday was rained-out.

Meanwhile, the playoff round is originally set to start this Wednesday, but no final date has been set as off press time last night, as a couple more rescheduled matches still have to be played. The first round of the playoffs will feature the following pairings: No. 1 vs No. 8; No. 2 vs No. 7; No. 3 vs No. 6; and No. 4 vs No. 5. It will have a single-elimination format and games will take place at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GCA vs SIS in Volleyball Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy players and coaches pose with their championship trophy after beating Saipan International School in the girls high school finals of the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Saipan International School's Guy Keon Kim, right, sets up teammate Sally Lai.

Saipan International School's Maria Gregoire jumps to receive a GCA serve.

Saipan International School's Sally Lai bends for a return.

Saipan International School's Malika Miyawaki makes the first hit at the backline.

Grace Christian Academy's Karina Dilse kneels to receive the ball.

Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan leaps for a spike.

Grace Christian Academy's Seoyeon Woo tosses the ball.

Federer upset by Coris, misses finals duel vs Djokovic

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Sports

Astros win wild Game 1; Cora ejected

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GCA clinches v-ball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy captured the girls high school division title in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League after defeating Saipan International School in the finale, 25-21, 25-16, last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Missing four key players who left the island on the same day the playoffs started, the Lady Eagles got a big lift from relievers Tina Choi and Mika Kimura and steady game from old reliables Jasmine Phan, Karina Dilse, Seoyeon Woo, and Clerisse Dacumos in the championship game to thwart the hard-fighting Lady Geckos.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Grace Christian Academy's Tina Choi bumps the ball during the first set of their title game against Saipan International School in the girls high school division of the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Phan leaped for a kill to score the match point that came after several exchanges and handed GCA the crown, as SIS' Malika Miyawaki failed to return the ball that dropped to the backline.

Phan, Dilse, and Choi alternately hit spikes for the Lady Eagles with the latter's towering presence near the net working wonders for the eventual champion, which had a harder time getting the win in the first set before capitalizing on the exhausted SIS crew in the second set for a much easier victory.

GCA played the first set after taking a long break, as it earlier notched the first finals

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's Mike Achas, center, pulls up for a shot against two Best Deals/RNV defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

McDonald's wins debut, routs foe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's caught fire early en route to a 111-91 victory over Best Deal/RNV in their debut game in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Jaymark De Guzman led McDonald's' hot start scoring 16 points in the first quarter to lift his team to a 34-25 advantage and win his shootout against Ronald Rueda. McDonald's' offense later tapered off in the second half, but De Guzman, Jun Fidelino and siblings Mike, McLain, and Joseph Achas worked together in providing their squad enough baskets to keep their safe distance.

De Guzman and company outgunned Best Deal/RNV anew in the second quarter, 29-19, to bring their lead to twin digits at the break, 63-44. Best Deal/RNV then trimmed the lead down to 11, 76-87, with Andy Mortos teaming up with Rueda. However, McLain, and Fi-

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GCA 1 still undefeated

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Grace Christian Academy 1 stayed atop the team standings in the middle school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League as it defeated Agape Christian School 1 in straight sets.

The Eagles defended their home court against ACS 1, taking a 25-13 win in the first set and a 25-10 victory in the second to complete the sweep last Thursday. With its another triumph, GCA 1 remains unbeaten this season, hiking its record to 13-0, while the Torchbearers now hold a 10-3 slate.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy 1's Juruel Magtalas serves to Agape Christian School during their middle school division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Thursday at the GCA court.

The Torchbearers had the lead during the early stages of the first set, but the Eagles' Katriel Saures, Hye Jin Elliot, and Soleil Lamar each strung consecutive aces, while the rest of the Eagles hustled on defense to counter ACS 1's offensive efforts for the 12-point win.

Then in the second set, Juruel Magtalas sparked GCA's

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